A/54/3/Rev.1

United Nations

# Report of the Economic and Social Council for 1999

## General Assembly

**Official Records**
**Fifty-fourth session**
**Supplement No. 3 (A/54/3/Rev.1)**

**General Assembly**
Official Records
Fifty-fourth session
Supplement No. 3 (A/54/3/Rev.1)

# Report of the Economic and Social Council for 1999

United Nations • New York, 1999

*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

ISSN 0082-8203

# Foreword by the President of the Council

For the Council, 1999 can rightly be considered a signal year both substantively and symbolically: substantively, because the Council is increasingly able not only to conduct oversight, give guidance to its subsidiary bodies and substantially increase interrelationship with the Bretton Woods institutions, but also to achieve effective decision-making on a wide range of policy issues; and symbolically, because it has been able to restore its rightful place among the principal organs under the Charter of the United Nations by having reclaimed its own chamber from which it was for so long practically banned.

Also, for the first time in many years, the Council managed to complete consideration during the session of all substantive issues in its agenda. All this was possible owing to meticulous advanced preparations and consultations, thanks to an effective division of labour among the Bureau members.

When looking back over the year, a number of events stand out in particular. Foremost among those has been the further deepening of the interaction with the Bretton Woods institutions. The visit by the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank to the Economic and Social Council in February, the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions at the end of April, the visit by Council Ambassadors to Washington in May and the planned visit of the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund to New York in October, all give testimony that there are genuine understanding and cooperation in our common goal of achieving development for all humankind, and most especially the eradication of poverty.

In May, the Council conducted informal meetings on basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits. The Council had a rich and interactive dialogue, organized along the lines of panels, which represented an encouraging further step in the Council's efforts to ensure coherence and cooperation in the multifaceted conference implementation efforts.

Eradication of poverty was the leitmotif of this year's Council's work which culminated in the adoption of a ministerial communiqué at the Council's high-level segment in July, in which the Council brought together the strands of employment and gender in the fight against poverty. The innovative use of five panels in New York, Turin and Geneva leading up to the high-level segment added a further dimension to this all-embracing topic by engaging various representatives of civil society. The rich and wide-ranging discussion at the high-level segment with the participation, for the first time, of representatives of non-governmental organization constituencies showed clearly the unique role of the Council in promoting an integrated and coherent view of cross-cutting policy issues. For the first time, the Council's high-level debate was broadcast live on the Internet and received extensive coverage in world media.

The operational activities segment was also pervaded by the theme of poverty eradication to which its high-level part was specifically devoted. That the segment produced two substantive resolutions represents a marked improvement over the past two years when the Council refrained from providing substantive guidance for operational activities. The two themes chosen for next year (resources, and harmonization and simplification) should

make it possible to introduce further improvements in the segment in order for the Council to play its oversight role vis-à-vis the funds and programmes more effectively.

Africa and African development was the focus of attention in the coordination segment. As in the past, the segment continued to provide excellent results, with the agreed conclusions furnishing the attention Africa needs and deserves and showing the Council's commitment to giving Africa the utmost priority.

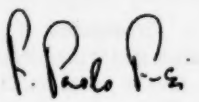
With regard to Latin America, the Council's adoption of a resolution on Haiti during the general segment was particularly noteworthy, as it revived Article 65 of the Charter of the United Nations, a provision which had long been dormant. A plan to be adopted for adequate, coherent, well-coordinated and effective assistance to Haiti, as requested by the Security Council, has already been transmitted to the General Assembly and the Security Council. This endeavour has opened new avenues of cooperation among the principal organs of the United Nations, and the Economic and Social Council stands ready to discharge further responsibilities in the area of post-conflict peace-building.

In the Asian region, the Council devoted particular attention to the coordination of operational activities in Indonesia in the context of its dialogue with the Resident Coordinator and the country team in that country during its operational activities segment.

The humanitarian affairs segment, although still in an experimental stage, gave the Council the opportunity to have a wide-ranging policy-oriented discussion, focusing on lessons learned in the handling of humanitarian crises, including through a briefing on Kosovo. Particular attention was paid to the problems facing the poor during humanitarian emergencies and to the humanitarian crises in Africa.

Finally, the Council for the first time systematically examined the reports of its subsidiary bodies and adjusted outcomes so as to promote coherence among them. Many meetings, including videoconferences with Geneva and Vienna, with the Bureaux of these bodies are ongoing.

This year has seen much progress in reviving the Council's role as envisaged in the Charter and in restoring its identity. But much still remains to be done. In particular, its coordination functions vis-à-vis the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies need to be revitalized and strengthened. This is a task to which, in my view, the Council should turn its priority attention in the year ahead.



*(Signed)* F. Paolo **Fulci**
President of the Council

# Contents


| *Chapter* | | *Page* |
|---|---|---|
| | Foreword by the President of the Council | iii |
| I. | Matters calling for action by the General Assembly or brought to its attention | 1 |
| II. | Special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions | 6 |
| | Informal summary conclusions by the Secretariat | 6 |
| III. | High-level segment | 16 |
| | The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women | 16 |
| | Ministerial communiqué of the high-level segment submitted by the President of the Council | 18 |
| IV. | Operational activities segment | 22 |
| | Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation | 22 |
| | A. Poverty eradication and capacity-building | 22 |
| | B. Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly | 22 |
| | C. Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/ United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme | 23 |
| | D. Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries | 24 |
| V. | Coordination segment | 25 |
| | Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following theme: Development of Africa: implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development | 25 |
| | Agreed conclusions 1999/2 | 25 |
| VI. | Humanitarian affairs segment | 30 |
| | Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance | 30 |
| | Agreed conclusions 1999/1 | 30 |
| VII. | General segment | 36 |
| | A. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits | 36 |
| | B. Coordination, programme and other questions | 37 |
| | 1. Reports of coordination bodies | 39 |
| | 2. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 | 39 |

3. Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS) ..... 39

4. International cooperation in the field of informatics ..... 40

5. Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields .. 40

C. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B ..... 40

D. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations ..... 41

E. Regional cooperation ..... 41

F. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan ..... 43

G. Non-governmental organizations ..... 44

H. Economic and environmental questions ..... 45

1. Sustainable development ..... 46

2. Science and technology for development ..... 46

3. Statistics ..... 47

4. Human settlements ..... 48

5. Environment ..... 48

6. Women in development ..... 48

7. Transport of dangerous goods ..... 48

8. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction ..... 49

9. Population and development ..... 49

10. International cooperation in tax matters ..... 50

11. Energy and natural resources for development ..... 50

I. Social and human rights questions ..... 51

1. Advancement of women ..... 52

2. Social development ..... 54

3. Crime prevention and criminal justice ..... 54

4. Narcotic drugs ..... 56

5. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ..... 57

6. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination ..... 57

7. Programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People ..... 57

8. Human rights ..... 57

VIII. Elections, appointments, nominations and confirmations ..... 63

IX. Organizational matters ..... 64

A. Action taken by the Council ..... 64

B. Proceedings ..... 64

1. Bureau of the Council ..... 64

2. Agenda of the organizational session for 1999 ..... 64

3. Basic programme of work of the Council for 2000 ..... 64

4. Participation of non-governmental organizations accredited to the World Summit for Social Development in the work of the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-seventh session ..... 64

5. Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ..... 64

6. Theme and programme of work of the humanitarian affairs segment of the substantive session of 1999 of the Economic and Social Council ..... 65

7. Issue of the review of the distribution of seats in the Executive Board of the World Food Programme ..... 65

8. Work programme for the Committee for Development Policy ..... 65

9. Revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme ..... 65

10. Working arrangements for the substantive session of 1999 of the Economic and Social Council ..... 65

11. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations reporting to the Economic and Social Council on the follow-up to the World Food Summit ..... 65

12. Additional meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women ..... 65

13. Applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations 66

14. Applications from organizations of indigenous people not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council for participation in the work of the open-ended inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people ..... 66

15. Approval of an application for membership in the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods ..... 66

16. Long-term programme of support for Haiti ..... 66

17. Request for an additional meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" ..... 66

18. Agenda of the substantive session of 1999 ..... 66

19. Requests by non-governmental organizations for hearings ..... 66

20. Themes for the substantive session of 2000 of the Economic and Social Council .. 67

Annexes

I. Agendas of the organizational and resumed organizational sessions for 1999 and the substantive session of 1999 ..... 68

II. Composition of the Council and its subsidiary and related bodies ..... 71

III. Intergovernmental organizations designated by the Council under rule 79 of the rules of procedure for participation in the deliberations of the Council on questions within the scope of their activities ..... 117

# Chapter I
# Matters calling for action by the General Assembly or brought to its attention

In 1999, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolutions and decisions that call for action by the General Assembly. The relevant paragraphs of those resolutions and decisions are summarized below.

## Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

### Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

By its decision 1999/282, the Council took note of the request to enlarge the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees contained in the note verbale dated 26 May 1999 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/1999/76) and in the note verbale dated 20 July 1998 from the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/1999/112) and recommended that the General Assembly take a decision at its fifty-fourth session on the question of enlarging the membership of the Executive Committee from fifty-four to fifty-six States.

## Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following theme: Development of Africa: implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development

### Development of Africa: implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development

By its decision 1999/270, the Council, having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the theme "Development of Africa: implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development" (A/54/133-E/1999/79), recommended that the agreed conclusions and discussion on the theme arising out of the coordination segment of its substantive session of 1999 be an integral part of the reports and issues to be considered by the open-ended working group to be established by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

## Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

### Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

By resolution 1999/50, the Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained therein.

### Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

In its resolution 1999/55, the Council, *inter alia*, decided to transmit to the General Assembly, as inputs for the five-year reviews of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the World Summit for Social Development, the Council's outcomes on (a) the role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women, (b) operational activities, in particular poverty eradication and capacity-building and (c) coordination of implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development.

## Coordination, programme and other questions

### Long-term programme of support for Haiti

In its resolution 1999/11, the Council, *inter alia*, recommended to the General Assembly to review all aspects of the mandate and operations of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti in the light of the situation in Haiti and to consider renewing the mandate of the United Nations component of the Mission.

### United Nations Staff College in Turin

By its decision 1999/271, the Council, noting the importance of specific training and upgrading of the skills of United Nations personnel, and also noting the activities undertaken so far by the United Nations Staff College in Turin, Italy, invited the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session to hold, under the agenda item "Training and research", a discussion on the activities of the College, including the institutional, administrative and financial aspects, with a view to further considering the question at its fifty-fifth session, on the basis of the recommendations of the Secretary-General on the future status and operations of the College after the conclusion of its pilot phase in December 2000.

## Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B

### Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions

In its resolution 1999/51, section II, the Council, *inter alia*, welcomed the broad agreement reached in the context of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on Financing for Development on the need to involve the Bretton Woods institutions in the process on financing for development, and recommended in that context that the Assembly consider exploring during its fifty-fourth session the possibility of inviting the Bretton Woods institutions to participate in a joint task force with the United Nations with the aim of facilitating the further involvement of the Bretton Woods institutions in that process.

## Regional cooperation

### Programme of work and priorities of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2000-2001

In its resolution 1999/39, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in making his proposals for the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, to give special consideration to the development needs of the African region by providing the Economic Commission for Africa with adequate resources to enable it to adequately respond to the new development challenges facing Africa, and called upon the General Assembly and its Second and Fifth Committees to ensure that adequate resources were made available to the Commission for the implementation of its programme of work.

## Non-governmental organizations

### Strengthening the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat

In its resolution 1999/34, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at the main part of its fifty-fourth session containing a comprehensive analysis of the organizational structure and technical, personnel and financial resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, commensurate with the increased workload and the level of responsibility necessary to implement the Secretariat's mandate, as contained in Council resolution 1996/31, parts 10 and 11.

## Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development

### Expansion of the United Nations guidelines on consumer protection to include sustainable consumption

In its resolution 1999/7, the Council, *inter alia*, recalling General Assembly resolution 39/248, in which the Assembly adopted the guidelines for consumer protection, and noting that the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its third session, had recommended that the guidelines be expanded to include guidelines for sustainable consumption, decided to transmit to the Assembly, for consideration with a view to their adoption, the draft guidelines for consumer protection expanded to include sustainable consumption, as contained in the annex to Council resolution 1999/7.

## Economic and environmental questions: International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

### International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: successor arrangements

The Council adopted resolution 1999/63 in which, *inter alia*, it requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the resolution, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

## Social and human rights questions: advancement of women

### Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

By resolution 1999/13, the Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained therein.

### Revitalization of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

In its resolution 1999/54, the Council decided to engage in the revitalization of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Board of Trustees of the Institute, to draw up a new structure and working method for the Institute and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

## Social and human rights questions: social development

### Policies and programmes involving youth

By resolution 1999/18, the Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained therein.

## Social and human rights questions: crime prevention and criminal justice

### Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

By resolution 1999/19, the Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained therein.

### Draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the draft protocols thereto

By resolution 1999/20, the Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained therein.

### Activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, as well as consideration of the need to develop an instrument on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives

By resolution 1999/21, the Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained therein.

### Action against corruption

By resolution 1999/22, the Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained therein.

## Social and human rights questions: narcotic drugs

### Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction

By resolution 1999/29, the Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained therein.

## Social and human rights questions: human rights

### Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

By resolution 1999/12, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/78, approved the Commission's recommendation that the General Assembly, through the Council, request the Secretary-General to assign high priority to the activities of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and to earmark adequate resources to finance the activities of the Programme of Action. The Council also approved the Commission's recommendations to the Assembly, through the Council, that, if no offer was made to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for hosting the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance by the end of the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference to be held in 2000: (a) the World Conference should be held in Geneva, and (b) it should be held in 2001, but after the session of the Commission and before that of the Assembly.

### Situation of human rights in Afghanistan

By decision 1999/226, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/9, endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan for one year and to request the Special Rapporteur to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session.

### Situation of human rights in Burundi

By decision 1999/227, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/10, endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi by one year and to request him to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and a report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session.

### Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

By decision 1999/228, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/13, endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Representative of the Commission on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran for a further year and to request the Special Representative to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session.

### Situation of human rights in Iraq

By decision 1999/229, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/14, endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iraq for a further year and to request him to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session.

### Situation of human rights in the Sudan

By decision 1999/230, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/15, endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan for a further year and to request him to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session.

### Situation of human rights in Myanmar

By decision 1999/231, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/17, endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar for a further year and to request him to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session.

### Situation of human rights in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

By decision 1999/232, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/18, endorsed the Commission's decision to renew for one year the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and to request him to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session and to present interim reports to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

**Situation of human rights in Rwanda**

By decision 1999/234, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/20, endorsed the Commission's decision to extend for a further year the mandate of the Special Representative on the situation of human rights in Rwanda and to request him to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session.

**Strengthening of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

By decision 1999/243, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/54, endorsed the Commission's recommendation that the Council and the General Assembly should provide the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with the means and resources necessary to carry out its increased responsibilities and that they should also provide increased resources for the special rapporteurs.

**Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

By decision 1999/244, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/56, endorsed the Commission's decision to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a further year and to request the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and a member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to carry out a joint mission to investigate all massacres carried out on the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session.

**Situation of human rights in Haiti**

By decision 1999/248, the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/77, approved the Commission's invitation to the independent expert of the Commission on the situation of human rights in Haiti to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on developments in the human rights situation in Haiti.

# Chapter II
## Special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions

1. In accordance with paragraph 88 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 50/227, the Council held a special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions on 29 April 1999 (6th meeting). An account of the proceedings is contained in the relevant summary record (E/1999/SR.6). The Council had before it a note by the Secretary-General identifying issues relating to the functioning of international financial markets and stability in financing for development (E/1999/42 and Corr.1).

2. The President of the Council made an introductory statement.

3. The Deputy Secretary-General addressed the meeting.

4. The President introduced the following panellists: Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, Minister of the Treasury of Italy, and Chairman of the Interim Committee; Tarrin Nimmanahaeminda, Minister of Finance of Thailand, Chairman of the Development Committee; Mats Karlsson, Secretary of State for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, and Chairman of the Group of 10; and Carlos Saito, Adviser to the President of the Central Bank of Peru, and Vice-President of the Group of 24. After presentations by the panellists, interventions were made by Bharrat Jagdeo, Minister of Finance of Guyana (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China); Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (on behalf of the European Union); Alan P. Larson, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs of the United States Department of State; Andrei G. Shapovaliants, Minister of the Economy of the Russian Federation; Hikmet Uluğbay, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey; Francisco Soberón, Minister, President of the Central Bank of Cuba; Trevor Manuel, Finance Minister of South Africa; and Ahmad Kamal, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations.

5. Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, Chairman of the Interim Committee, James Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank, Mr. Michel Camdessus, Chairman of the Executive Board and Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, and Carlos Saito, Vice-President of the Group of 24, responded to comments made and questions raised during the dialogue.

6. Interventions were made by John M. Robinson, Vice-President, Policy Branch, Canadian International Development Agency; Juan Camilo Restrepo, Minister of Finance and Public Credit of Colombia; Eveline Herfkens, Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands; Ibrahim Al-Assaf, Minister of Finance of Saudi Arabia; Leiv Lunde, State Secretary for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway; Mohsen Noorbakhsh, Governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Tony Faint, Director, Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Gerard Corr, Director General, Multilateral Development Division, Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland; Abdul Wahab Osman, Minister of Finance and Economy of the Sudan; and Denzil L. Douglas, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

7. Tarrin Nimmanahaeminda, Chairman of the Development Committee, and Mats Karlsson, Chairman of the Group of 10, responded to questions raised during the dialogue. Interventions were made by Wolfgang Ruttenstorfer, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Finance of Austria; Yukio Satoh, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations; and S. A. Samad, Principal Secretary, Prime Minister's Secretariat of Bangladesh.

8. The President of the World Bank and the Chairman of the Executive Board and Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund commented on the dialogue.

9. The Deputy Secretary-General and the President of the Council made concluding remarks.

10. The Secretariat subsequently circulated for information an informal summary of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions (E/1999/78). The text read as follows:

### Informal summary conclusions by the Secretariat

#### "I. Background

"1. The General Assembly, in its resolution on revitalizing the United Nations in the economic and social fields adopted at its fiftieth session, recommended that the Economic and Social Council schedule periodically a high-level special meeting at a time proximate to the semi-annual meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions (50/227 of 24 May 1996, annex I, para. 88). Based on the experience of the first such high-level special meeting, held on 18 April 1998,

the Assembly, in its resolution 53/172 of 15 December 1998, stressed the importance of the open high-level dialogue between the Council and the Bretton Woods institutions, and invited the Secretary-General to further support the Council in the organization of the high-level dialogue in 1999.

"2. The second special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions was held on 29 April 1999. The meeting brought together policy makers in the areas of development cooperation, foreign affairs and finance for a dialogue in the Council. The theme addressed was 'The functioning of international financial markets and stability in financing for development', a topic closely tied to the globalization process. Along the lines of the 1998 meeting, the high-level meeting of the Council was in the form of a free-flowing dialogue between a panel composed of Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, Minister of the Treasury of Italy, Chairman of the Interim Committee of the Board of Governors on the International Monetary System (International Monetary Fund (IMF)); Tarrin Nimmanahaeminda, Minister of Finance of Thailand, Chairman of the Development Committee; Carlos Saito, Adviser to the President of the Central Bank of Peru, Vice-President of the Deputies of the Group of Twenty-Four (G-24); and Mats Karlsson, State Secretary for International Development Cooperation, representing Sweden as the country chairing the Group of Ten (G-10). The meeting was opened by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and chaired by the President of the Council.

"3. The present document provides a synopsis of that 29 April 1999 meeting, and summarizes the salient points and main aspects of the statements that were made and exchanges of views that took place at the meeting.

"4. It is hoped that this summary will deepen the understanding of the relation between the financial architecture and development and will also contribute to the reflection on how to maintain the focus on long-term development through situations of economic and financial crisis.

## "II. Opening statements

"5. The President of the Economic and Social Council underlined the widespread concern with current world economic and social conditions. The participation in the joint meeting of the highest financial authorities of a large number of countries and the heads of the Bretton Woods institutions provided a unique opportunity to discuss, and to seek to change, those conditions. The Council was the natural forum in which to advance the dialogue and build confidence on world economic and social issues.

"6. It was disturbing that the gap between the poor and the rich in the world was increasing while official development assistance (ODA) — measured as a percentage of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the developed countries — had just reached its lowest level in 50 years. Solidarity was a strong reason to promote development in developing countries. Yet, more rapid development was also in the interest of donor countries.

"7. Encouraging signals had been received from the recent meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions. The persistent crisis underscored the need for a comprehensive view of the reform of the international financial system and the problems of development. Increased stability of the international financial system was critical. The debt question, particularly of the poorest countries, needed increased attention. Relief was important to free poor countries from unsustainable debt levels and to make resources available to meet elementary human needs of their people. The Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1999 in July in Geneva, would give priority to the goal of poverty eradication.

"8. The Deputy Secretary-General stressed the importance of greater unity of purpose and action among international organizations. Although the worst fears of one year ago had not materialized, this was not the time for complacency. The world economy remained sluggish and downside risks were high. In many developing countries, the crisis had reversed in a few months the social gains of several decades. A large part of the developing world remained on the margins of the global market.

"9. Faced with those realities, the priorities should be: faster growth in the world economy; completion of work on the establishment of a new global financial architecture; helping developing countries build the capacity to engage in the global economy on a

sustainable basis; ensuring that sufficient resources were available for the task; and strengthening cooperation and coordination among all the stakeholders in the development process.

"10. Progress had been made in improving the international financial system, yet much remained to be done to reduce the instability in private capital markets. The United Nations had put forward a number of ideas for reforming the system. The issue of governance of a strengthened system was crucial; neither its design nor its management should be the prerogative of a few States.

"11. Liberalization was not sufficient to achieve development. Developing countries also needed to put in place policies and mechanisms to provide economic security and social welfare for all their people. She welcomed the growing attention that the Bretton Woods institutions were now giving to social issues. The outcome of the major United Nations conferences earlier in the decade provided a frame of reference for international consideration and action on those issues.

"12. ODA continued to play a key role in many of the poorer countries. It was imperative to reverse its decline. The recent proposals to expand the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative were welcome; however, actions on debt should not be taken at the expense of ODA. She supported the proposals to finance debt relief to the poorest countries by the sale of IMF gold holdings.

"13. Achieving sustainable development required a holistic approach. That was why the Secretary-General had launched the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The proposal by the President of the World Bank of a Comprehensive Development Framework had the same goal and this provided an additional opportunity for closer work, particularly where it counted most: at the country level.

"14. The Chairman of the Interim Committee said that two days before the Committee had taken stock of the state of the world economy. It had discussed ways for countries to become more resilient and to enhance their participation in the global economy with more effective help of the international community.

"15. Referring to the Committee's work, he stated that innovations had been introduced. Preparatory work had intensified and as a result the efficiency of the Committee had increased. The Committee would continue its pursuit of increased efficiency while involving a broader range of countries in its work.

"16. Since last year's meeting, he continued, contagion had spread. Major crises had erupted in the Russian Federation and Brazil. Although the worst of the crises seemed to be over, the world economy was far from growing at its full potential. Policies had to be geared towards sustainable growth so as to provide a stimulus to the world economy.

"17. The mitigation and prevention of future crises remained a key issue. Progress was being made in the international financial institutions. A Contingency Credit Line had been established by IMF to prevent and contain contagion. To be eligible, countries had to adopt sustainable exchange policies and sound debt management, and involve the private sector in financing their external borrowing requirements.

"18. Considerable progress had been achieved in developing, disseminating and monitoring the implementation of international recognized standards, particularly concerning international reserves. Also, work was being pursued to devise ways to involve the private sector in ensuring stable financial flows to emerging and less developed countries. Moreover, IMF had cooperated with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to put in place social sector policies that would limit unemployment, increase income transfers and broaden social safety nets.

"19. Poor countries risked being excluded from the discussion on architecture and global financial markets. The Committee had asked IMF and the World Bank to work in the context of the HIPC towards a framework that provided deeper relief to a broader group of countries, in a way that strengthened the incentives for adopting strong reform programmes and fostered the respect of human rights.

"20. The Committee had also considered how IMF could enhance its support for countries emerging from conflict, including through more concessional resources with longer maturities. Bilateral and multilateral donors were responding to the crisis in Kosovo. Yet, more was required. The Committee had endorsed the need for a rapid, substantial and coordinated response by the international community to the economic consequences of the crisis in the region.

"21. In sum, he added, the Committee had broadly endorsed the actions by IMF in such difficult times. He was confident that together with the activities of the World Bank and the United Nations, they would provide the pillars for a stronger, more effective and

coordinated action of the international financial institutions.

"22. The Chairman of the Development Committee said he would concentrate his remarks on international policy on external debt, and economic crisis and social policy. In the recent meeting of the Committee, Ministers had appreciated the progress achieved in the past two and a half years in implementing the HIPC Debt Initiative. More than US$ 6 billion of debt relief had been granted to seven countries. Yet, in the view of Ministers, results fell short of what was needed. It was thus encouraging to hear that many Ministers from donor nations had offered to take additional steps bilaterally. They had also agreed to examine options that would make the HIPC Debt Initiative broader, deeper and faster. For the initiative to be most productive and to minimize moral hazard, it should continue to be associated with strong policy performance by the country concerned. Moreover, the Development Committee had endorsed the principle that changes in the initiative should preserve the financial integrity of international financial institutions.

"23. The Committee had also heard the views and perspectives on this issue of the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. These banks had significant HIPC funding problems to face and it was important that those problems be recognized. Thus, Ministers had requested that the review of options to expand the initiative be matched by a broad-based effort to find appropriate and equitable financing. In poorest countries, debt relief was not enough: for them, new financing should be on a grant basis or highly concessional, according to the Ministers. A major effort was needed on both the aid and trade fronts to reach the international goal of halving the proportion of people living in poverty by 2015. The sharp decline of ODA was viewed with great concern.

"24. The World Bank had undertaken, at the request of the Development Committee, consultations with the United Nations and its agencies, on principles and good practices in social policies. A valuable paper had been prepared for the Ministers which had drawn heavily on the core recommendations of the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development. The lessons of the recent financial crisis had clearly shown the importance of helping countries bolster their social policies and institutions. Given its experience, the World Bank should concentrate on translating broad principles into practical and country-specific results.

"25. The Committee had welcomed the close links between these social principles and policies and the proposed Comprehensive Development Strategy of the President of the World Bank. The emphasis on implementation and developing best practice was seen as the Bank's comparative advantage, whereas further development of principles could best be accomplished in the United Nations framework.

"26. He added that Thailand had identified three principles in selecting policy options: social policies must be consistent with Thai values and culture; social policies must be sustainable after the crisis; social policies should deepen the reform agenda in terms of transparency, people participation and community development. In practice, a two-track approach had been adopted. First, using fiscal deficit, government programmes had been strengthened to alleviate unemployment and underemployment. Second, civil societies and local communities had been incorporated as full partners in social policy programmes. In sum, it was clear that sustainable economic recovery depended on coherent and effective social policies as much as on economic reform measures.

"27. The Chairman of G-10 stressed the need for a favourable and stable economic environment and for evolving norms and rules to ensure that all could benefit from economic integration. Political determination was necessary to ensure that economic growth, social justice and environmental sustainability enriched each other in national and global policy-making.

"28. Poverty could be eradicated faster. The lessons from everywhere were clear: invest in a democratic culture, a social market and individual empowerment through continuous education, and the deprived will stand a good chance of taking control of their future. The World Development Indicators recently released by the World Bank suggested that, despite a generation of significant progress in the developing world, the progress towards eradicating poverty was insufficient. In some areas, poverty was even rising and forecasts indicated that only South Asia and China would reduce poverty by half by 2015. While development assistance was not the key to everything, it was essential. As stated by the Managing Director of IMF: 'We must also see in ODA the highest yielding investment that humankind can make in the future.' The declining trend of ODA must be reversed so to approach the 0.7 target.

"29. Around the world, rapid global economic integration was far exceeding political integration.

Reliably functioning financial markets remained a central challenge of globalization. Financial stability had to be treated as a global public good. When capital flows suddenly swelled or contracted, not only was the private sector affected, but Governments had to make difficult choices almost instantaneously. Rationality suffered. As financial instability, to some extent, originated in market failures, a central objective should be to correct them.

"30. The ongoing process to review the international financial architecture was welcome. Not for a long time had the window of opportunity for change been more open. Private capital markets must be the backbone of sustainable development. Since the pattern of distribution of foreign investment in the developing world remained uneven, there was a clear role for global public responsibility in helping more countries to access development financing. The key question was how to improve adequacy and predictability in financing development. The task was set to deliver the relevant responses in the process within the United Nations leading up to the high-level meeting on financing for development in 2001.

"31. Governments had to bring together the competence, which in many countries was divided, between ministries of finance, economy, trade, planning, foreign affairs, development and other public bodies so as to focus instruments and resources on development objectives. There was also a need to relate more clearly to the private sector. With a broadly shared view on the framework for development finance, overall confidence and long-term commitment will be more easily achieved. Yet, development assistance alone could not generate sustainable development. Domestic saving and investment, and international trade had a much larger potential. This needed to be fully recognized in the current process and the forthcoming round of negotiations in the World Trade Organization.

"32. In many countries, investments in human development were insufficient largely owing to the fact that their budgets were being drained by debt obligations. Additional debt relief was necessary to achieve human development objectives. While the HIPC initiative was a major step forward, the time had come for its revision. Countries had to be given options for a viable exit from the debt trap. Sweden was encouraging all creditor countries to cancel ODA debt.

"33. The Chairman of G-10 added that the past years had witnessed considerable improvements in the collaboration between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions. He appreciated the progress made but indicated that more was required. There was an agreed development agenda. What was needed was coherence in policies at global, regional and national levels in order to maximize the effects of our common resources.

"34. The G-24 Ministers of the developing countries (Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs) were represented by one of the Group's two Vice-Presidents. He said that the recent ministerial meeting of 26 April 1999 had focused on three main issues: the world economy and the international monetary system; strengthening the architecture of the international financial system; and development financing. Ministers had expressed their concern at the low rates of economic growth. They had welcomed the easing of monetary conditions in industrialized countries and had stressed the need for those countries to open their markets wider to the imports of developing countries.

"35. The financial crisis had affected even countries with sound policies. More had to be done to avoid contagion. They had reiterated their call for the establishment of a task force with participation from developing and developed countries to engage in an in-depth examination of issues related to the reform of the international monetary and financial system.

"36. Regarding the Contingency Credit Line, Ministers had expected that the eligibility criteria would be administered in a way that provided incentives and equal opportunities for member countries. In addition, the lender of last resort initiative deserved further study and discussion. They also expressed their satisfaction at the efforts to explore involving the private sector in both forestalling and resolving financial crises. Integration into the global financial market remained a fundamental objective of the developing world; yet, its benefits could be fully obtained only if volatility was contained.

"37. When liberalizing capital accounts, the specific characteristics of each country had to be considered. Notwithstanding the fact that progress achieved on the issue of transparency was welcome, Ministers had emphasized the importance for IMF of concentrating on areas related to its core activities. They also appreciated the efforts to strengthen the decision-making process of the Bretton Woods institutions. Strengthening the existing instruments of cooperation — including the working procedures of the

Interim and Development Committees without undermining the role of the Executive Directors — was the best way to proceed.

"38. Regarding the HIPC initiative, Ministers had welcomed the growing consensus with respect to restructuring it. This would require additional resources, the equitable distribution of the burden and alternative mechanisms for funding. The recent expressions of intent by the Group of Seven (G-7) and other creditor countries to support the restructuring of the initiative, and their willingness to forgive ODA debt of poor countries, were encouraging. However, G-24 remained concerned at the disturbing decline in ODA.

"39. IMF's granting of additional funds for post-conflict countries and the World Bank's initiatives in that area were welcome. Expanding the definition of countries in conflict was also encouraged. Ministers had urged the Bretton Woods institutions and donors to build capacities in Africa. Regarding the Comprehensive Development Framework, the view was that it was essential to maintain a balance between macroeconomic and social matters, but there was concern about joint planning capacity and costs implications for borrowers.

"40. The basic principles to promote social development were important. The Bretton Woods institutions and the regional development banks should participate in developing the principles according to their respective mandates and comparative advantages. In conclusion, he stated, G-24 felt that the United Nations initiative for holding a high-level forum for financing for development, scheduled for 2001, was very important.

## "III. The dialogue: key issues

"41. A very rich debate followed the above presentations, with the participation of the Ministers, the Permanent Representatives and the Heads of the Bretton Woods institutions. The discussion focused on six main subjects: measures to promote recovery and sustained economic growth; financial architecture and financial flows for development; increasing participation and cross-sectoral coherence; international policy on external debt; economic crisis and social policy initiatives; and further cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions.

### "A. Measures to promote recovery and sustained economic growth

"42. Several participants welcomed the signals indicating that the crisis was abating. Yet, serious concerns remained. The world economy was growing well below its potential, a large number of developing countries were stagnant or had a declining GDP, prices of many primary commodities were at unusually low levels, social conditions in crisis countries had suffered serious setbacks, and downside risks were substantial. The measures recommended by the Interim Committee had to be acted upon expeditiously. In the view of some representatives, wider market access for developing countries — in particular the least developed countries — was especially important.

"43. Despite the fact that the world was awash with financial capital, a large majority of developing countries had little or no access to it. It was true that the world economy was now better prepared to face crises after the measures already adopted and the experience gathered in the last two years. Yet, the abundance of financial capital and the potential for excessive lending linked to the fragility of several economies were still cause for concern. It was thus important to consider all factors that made economies more resilient.

"44. Improving the functioning and solidity of financial institutions was crucial but not sufficient. The political foundations, democratic Governments, effective participation of the people, and efficient social policies were as — or more — important. Long-term external capital could also provide a critical support. Thus, the multilateral development banks were encouraged to consider expanding their range of instruments for mobilizing private capital within an equitable and sustainable strategy for development. Foreign direct investment was generally a stable and effective source of capital. It was recommended that the international community should work with emerging economies to help them formulate policies that would make them attractive to foreign investors.

"45. Peace and development were inextricably linked. External and internal peace depended to a large measure on effectively tackling the risks that accompanied globalization. Enhanced support for countries in conflict and countries emerging from conflict was necessary, according to many participants. Measures such as more concessional resources with longer maturity were needed. In the case of Kosovo, a rapid, substantial and coordinated response to the

crisis, taking into account the needs of neighbouring countries, was crucial.

**"B. Financial architecture and financial flows for development**

"46. Several representatives stressed the need to focus on developing instruments, including early warning systems, aimed at preventing crises rather than just on measures to manage them. Innovations were necessary towards the greater transparency of: markets, international reserve levels, the fiscal situation and national and international financial institutions. It was important to strengthen the institutional capacity of IMF in the design and implementation of sound financial policies. Transforming the Interim Committee into a council merited serious consideration.

"47. According to some participants, the international financial institutions in their present form had proved incapable of preventing the crisis and its spread. A serious problem in dealing with an ongoing crisis was the fact that financial assistance was provided on the same strict terms that had obtained before the crisis. Such an approach needed revision. In this context, it appeared important to strengthen the resource base of IMF as well as to consider an allowance for quicker loans from that institution, including automatic access to the Contingency Credit Facility.

"48. A number of Ministers pointed out that the review of the international financial architecture should utilize a holistic approach. The Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations had contributed a document ('Towards a new international financial architecture') that provided interesting ideas for the ongoing reform process. Financial reform and social and structural issues had to be integrated not only in response to the crisis, but also for sustained development.

"49. International financing was only one aspect of financing for development. Unless sufficient domestic financing for investment was available, development could not be sustained. In the view of several Ministers, efforts were necessary to stabilize State revenue by means of a fair system of taxation and efficient tax administration, and to mobilize more domestic capital through an effective private sector financial system subject to adequate bank supervision. Also, fundamental institutional safeguards were needed rules on competition, transparency, rule of law, democratic control of the State, core labour standards, a public spending structure that made adequate provision for the poor, in particular by means of social investments and a safety net to ensure that international or national financial resources had a positive impact on development.

"50. Capacity-building was important to increase the capabilities of developing countries to absorb increasing financial resources. According to some representatives, priority should be given to strengthening the banking system. There was a need for better supervision as well as proper mechanisms for the management of bank failures.

"51. The flow of resources to developing countries remained a key factor in development. In the view of many, ODA should approach the 0.7 per cent target, especially to support poor countries introducing appropriate reforms. Other forms of bilateral financial cooperation were also important, but in the case of emerging markets such cooperation should not be used to bail out private creditors.

"52. The process in the United Nations directed towards a high-level event on financing for development in 2001 provided an important opportunity for interaction with the Bretton Woods institutions. Their participation was crucial to that process. It was proposed that a joint task force of the three institutions be considered with the objective of providing inputs to the preparatory process of the high-level event.

**"C. Increasing participation and cross-sectoral coherence**

"53. Several Ministers stated that, while developing countries were generally encouraged by recent broad proposals on functioning of international financial markets and financing for development, they were concerned about the design of the initiatives to give effect to such proposals. The question was whether, apart from existing consulting mechanisms, IMF and the World Bank could ensure that developing countries — especially small developing countries — would better participate in the processes and thereby gain ownership of the initiatives. Implementation also caused some concern. They wondered how developing countries that did not pose systemic risks, particularly smaller ones, could secure access to the higher levels of the international financial institutions when those countries' concerns were not given attention.

"54. The new financial architecture should strive for a more effective participation of all countries as well as a more symmetric supervision and transparency of all actors involved. The participation of regional development banks and other relevant regional institutions was also important. A number of representatives expected that the new financial architecture should strengthen the role of small countries. The view was expressed that particular attention should be given to the difficulties of countries in a special situation including small island developing countries.

"55. Some Ministers stated that resources were still being wasted owing to overlapping and turf-related battles. There was expertise in many quarters: it had to be tapped effectively. That would be possible only if various organizations worked together and ensured that developing countries had access to that expertise. Working together with the donor countries concerned was also critical. Governments also had an important responsibility: harmonizing the views of the different sectoral ministries in order to speak with one voice in international forums. Otherwise, the effect would be to continue to export compartmentalization at a time when there was a high degree of consensus on what had to be done and the key challenge was implementation.

### "D. International policy on external debt

"56. Many participants stressed the growing consensus on the need for changes in the HIPC initiative towards a deeper and faster relief for a broad group of countries. There should be a strong link between debt reduction and helping countries achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication. Thus, debt relief must not be at the expense of ODA.

"57. Several Ministers highlighted the importance of appropriate burden-sharing among creditors. It was also important to consider financing debt relief for the poorest countries by the sale of IMF gold reserves and new measures by bilateral donors. It was pointed out that well-targeted debt relief — freeing resources for children, education and environmental protection — could be instrumental in enhancing the resilience of the domestic economy.

"58. Some speakers stated that external debt should be addressed in a more comprehensive and holistic manner. Piecemeal responses to selected countries might not contribute to the overall goals of development of developing countries. A global plan of action for debt cancellation focused primarily on heavily indebted poor countries, but aiming also at other developing countries, could be explored.

"59. Countries in conflict or post-conflict situation were unlikely to benefit from the HIPC initiative. Yet, they needed resources to consolidate peace and speed up recovery. It was therefore also important to examine how to mitigate the debt burden of these countries.

### "E. Economic crisis and social policy initiatives

"60. Many Ministers emphasized that investments in education were central to development. This priority should receive special attention in assistance programmes, including the resources freed as a result of debt relief. Policy adjustments required to cope with a financial crisis also had to pay special attention to public-health and education programmes. More generally, the economic and social aspects of the policies and measures to deal with crises had to be effectively integrated.

"61. The establishment of minimal social safety nets in normal times could be instrumental in mitigating the worst effects of crises in vulnerable groups. Basic health care and nutrition would continue to be provided even in hard times so that the country's human capital was not eroded.

"62. Some participants pointed out the importance of establishing a policy framework that encouraged equitable sharing of opportunities. Capacity-building efforts, in particular of African countries and least developed countries, should be supported by the international community. Exchange of information on innovative social policies and practices could be particularly useful. Fostering small and medium-sized enterprises through appropriate credit and regulatory policies, including microcredit initiatives in rural and urban areas, should be a key element of the policy framework.

### "F. Further cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions

"63. The intensification of the dialogue and collaboration between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions was welcomed by the Ministers. Closer cooperation between the three institutions could produce mutually reinforcing synergies in the formulation and implementation of effective responses to meet the challenges of

globalization. The broad consensus on goals and policies made even more necessary their collaborative efforts for smooth implementation of policies and programmes, particularly at the field level. The UNDAF and the Comprehensive Development Framework must be mutually supportive and relate to the development priorities of individual countries. The emphasis should lie on poverty eradication, drawing in all development agencies as well as the private sector and civil society.

"64. Many Ministers welcomed the work on the Comprehensive Development Framework. The Comprehensive Development Framework, developed by the World Bank, was an interesting concept which should be further elaborated in the light of the UNDAF experience and taking into account the specificity and the relevant competence of the different channels of development cooperation.

"65. Enhanced partnership among international institutions, including regional ones, donors and recipient countries was critical to the success of joint efforts. Several Ministers appreciated the increasing attention that the Bretton Woods institutions were giving to social issues. Development of social principles and good practices was a step forward. The United Nations was a world forum with strong normative functions and global consensus on social policy was a key task of this institution. Further development of basic social principles could be best pursued by the United Nations, as part of the follow-up to the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development.

## "IV. Concluding remarks

"66. The President of the World Bank said that the discussion had highlighted the prevalence of the poverty issues and the need for unifying efforts, while organizational issues had also received significant attention. The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[1] had stated that countries of the world were committed to ensuring the social and financial environment in which to achieve development. There was no significant distinction between the establishing of principles by the United Nations and the attempt of the World Bank to determine financial policies. What was critical was ensuring that the two institutions worked together.

"67. Regarding the Comprehensive Development Framework, he affirmed the importance of bringing together the players in a coordinated partnership. The central issues were poverty and development and in dealing with them, the focus should be the substance, not the form. There seemed to be a consensus that there was a link among the macroeconomic, structural, social and human issues, which needed to be taken together. The Bank had set forth some ideas in the Comprehensive Development Framework. The present high-level meeting had demonstrated a broad consensus on that approach.

"68. The HIPC initiative was part of the development process, he added. He was very encouraged by the fact that the world was paying attention to debt issues, but they should be viewed in context. Good governance, capacity-building and human development were critical. The HIPC initiative had made substantial progress. Reduction in debt services had been agreed upon for a total of about $6 billion. By the end of the year, eight more countries might qualify. On the question, brought up by some participants, of more expeditious access to the Bank's senior management, he said there was a country director responsible for each country who should be able to ensure adequate access. If the country directors did not ensure access, then States, he suggested, should call him directly.

"69. Representing the World Bank, he was pleased to say that its relations with the United Nations were improving. It was important that they stop worrying about structure and being suspicious of each other and proceed with the work to be done, for the crisis really existed and that should create a sense of urgency.

"70. The Managing Director of IMF stated that, concerning the question whether the crisis was over or not, if he were to say prematurely that it was over, then Governments might react and not fully support reforms. A measure of stability had returned and the countries most affected were in a recovery process or very close to it. He was pleased at their determined efforts at reform. Preventing crisis remained an essential objective. Identifying danger signals was important but not always easy. Some countries had been warned by the Fund of impending crisis in their economies but little action was taken before the crisis erupted.

"71. Several participants pointed to the need to make the Bretton Woods institutions more participatory. The suggested transformation of the Interim Committee into a council would give the representatives of developing countries a forum where they could speak about their

concerns. That idea was gaining support. He said that at present, no effort was spared to have the smallest countries associated to the Fund's decisions. Almost all decisions, particularly those adapting or establishing facilities, were taken by consensus. As a matter of principle, he received all Ministers and Governors asking to see him.

"72. Regarding the HIPC initiative, he said that it was clear that it could not deliver what it promised without reform in the beneficiary countries and efforts by some countries to open their markets to them. Also, the trends in ODA must be reversed. It would be unfortunate should the battle of debt be won while the war of strengthening ODA was lost. It was necessary to properly marry debt relief and social relief. While he had found support from member countries for deepening debt relief for the poorest countries, he had seen no interest or readiness in the membership to include middle-income countries in the cancellation of debt.

"73. He stated that it was important to make sure that countries adopted, in advance of crisis, minimal social safety nets. That should be part of social principles and good practice being worked out. Also, he reiterated the need for a better integration of the United Nations family and the Bretton Woods family."

*Notes*

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

# Chapter III
## High-level segment

## The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women

1. The high-level segment was held from 5 to 7 July 1999 (12th to 17th meetings of the Council). An account of the proceedings is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.12-17). In accordance with Council decision 1998/298 of 5 August 1998, the theme for the high-level segment for 1999 was "The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women" (agenda item 2). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 8 July 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, containing the paper entitled "A Comprehensive Employment Strategy" presented by the Group of Fifteen at the eighty-seventh session of the International Labour Conference, held at Geneva from 1 to 17 June 1999 (A/54/171-E/1999/111);

(b) Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its first session (E/1999/33);[1]

(c) *World Economic and Social Survey, 1999* (E/1999/50/Rev.1);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General submitting to the Economic and Social Council the report prepared by the secretariat of the International Labour Organization, with contributions by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, on the role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women (E/1999/53).

2. At the 12th meeting, on 5 July, the President of the Council opened the session and made a statement.

3. The Secretary-General addressed the Council.

4. At the same meeting, the Director-General of the International Labour Organization made an introductory statement.

5. At the 12th and 13th meetings, on 5 July, the Council held a policy dialogue and discussion on important developments in the world economy and international economic cooperation with the heads of the multilateral financial and trade institutions of the United Nations system. Statements were made at the 12th meeting, by the panellists, the Chairman of the Executive Board and Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, the President of the World Bank/International Finance Corporation and the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. At the 13th meeting, a statement was made by the Director-in-Charge of the World Trade Organization, also a panellist.

6. At the 14th meeting, on 6 July, the Council held a meeting in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

7. The President of the Council made a statement, and the Secretary-General addressed the Council.

8. At the same meeting, statements were made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the question of the impact of armed conflict on children and the Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

9. Statements were made by children acting as representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: International Movement ATD Fourth World, Mouvement Tapori; the Colombia Movement of Children for Peace; and Mozambique — Continuadores.

10. Also at the 14th meeting, the Council began the high-level ministerial segment.

11. Statements were made by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and by the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee for Development Policy.

12. Statements were made by Indra Chandrapaul, Minister of Human Services and Social Security of Guyana (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China); Eva Biaudet, Minister of Health and Social Services of Finland (on behalf of the European Union and Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, which aligned themselves with the statement); Valentino Martelli, Deputy Foreign Minister of Italy; Dolores Crockett, Acting Director of the Women's Bureau, Department of Labor of the United States of America; Frances Rodrigues, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique; Johan

Sjahperi, Director-General of Foreign Economic Relations of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia; M. Aleksandar Dimitrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Jaime Ruiz Llano, Director of the National Department of Planning of Colombia; Leiv Lunde, State Secretary (Deputy Minister) for Development and Human Rights of Norway; Zola Skweyiya, Minister of Welfare and Development of South Africa; and Nguyen Dy Nien, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam.

13. At the 15th meeting, on 6 July, the Council held a panel discussion entitled "National policies and international cooperation for employment-oriented growth: impact on poverty reduction and gender equality". The moderator of the panel, Juan Somavía, Director General of the International Labour Organization, introduced the panellists: Anne Marie Lizin, independent expert of the Commission on Human Rights on human rights and extreme poverty; Sodov Onon, Director of the Poverty Alleviation Programme, Office of the National Poverty Alleviation Programme of Mongolia; Dariusz Rosati, member of the Monetary Policy Council of the National Bank of Poland; and T. N. Srinivasan, Chairman of the Department of Economics at Yale University, United States. The lead discussants were Stephen Pursey, Director of Employment and International Labour Standards, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, and Louka T. Katseli, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Economics at the University of Athens.

14. The panellists made presentations and responded to questions raised by the representatives of Spain, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United States, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Korea, Germany, Belgium, Italy and Cuba, and the observers for the Islamic Republic of Iran and Afghanistan.

15. The Lutheran World Federation, a non-governmental organization, also raised a question.

16. The Council then continued its consideration of agenda item 2.

17. At the same meeting, statements were made by Sergey Ordjonikidze, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation; Yolanda Ferrer-Gomez, Secretary-General of the Cuban Women's Federation of Cuba; Teresa González Fernandez de Solá, Under-Secretary for Women, Ministry of Foreign Relations, International Trade and Worship of Argentina; the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund; Fernando Messmer-Trigo, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia; Maria Eugenia Brizuela de Avila, Minister of External Relations of El Salvador; Jean-Luc Nordmann, Secretary of State of Switzerland; Martin Palous, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic; Minou Tavares Mirabel, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, of the Dominican Republic; Dmitri Vaneev, Chairman of the Committee on Employment, and Deputy Minister of Labour of Belarus; Yukio Satoh, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations; and Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

18. At the 16th meeting, on 7 July, statements were made by Francoise Rivière, Assistant Director-General, Bureau of Studies Programming and Evaluation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund; Lise Bergh, State Secretary for Gender and Equality Affairs of Sweden; Mohamed Said Saadi, State Secretary for Social Protection, Family and Children of Morocco; Simona Marinescu, Secretary of State, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Romania; Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Secretary of State (Children and Youth), Human Resources Development of Canada; Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Director-General, Department of Women's Affairs of Namibia; Amalia Gomez, Secretary-General for Social Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Spain; Algimantas Rimkunas, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania; B. A. B. Goonatilleke, Director-General, United Nations and Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka; Astrid Fischel, First Vice-President of Costa Rica; Gert Rosenthal, Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations; Man-Soon Chang, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations; Wolfgang Ischinger, Secretary of State, Federal Foreign Office of Germany; Michael John Powles, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations; Umaru B. Wurie, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Krzyslof Jakubowski, Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Percy Metsing Mangoaela, Permanent Representative of Lesotho to the United Nations; Gelson Fonseca, Jr., Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations; and Mr. Felipe H. Mabilangan, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations.

19. The representative of the World Food Programme also made a statement.

20. The representative of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations made a statement.

21. At the 17th meeting, on 7 July, statements were made by Dilip Lahiri, Additional Secretary (United Nations), Ministry of External Affairs of India; Antonio de Icaza, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Thorsteinn Ingolfsson, Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United Nations; Qiao Zong Huai, Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Mohamed-Salah Dembri, Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Volkan Vural, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations; David Peleg, Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Andrew Goledzinowski, Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Spomenka Cek, Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Manuel Rodriguez, Deputy Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Juan Larrain, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations; Mounir Zahran, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Julian R. Hunte, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations; Alvaro Montenegro-Mallona, Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Giuseppe Bertello, Permanent Observer for the Holy See to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Ali Khorram, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Gracibel Bú, Chargé d'affaires a.i., Permanent Mission of Honduras to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Luis Gallegos Chiriboga, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Krit Garnjana-Goonchorn, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Victor Rodriguez Cedeño, Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Alvaro de Mondonca E. Moura, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations Office at Geneva; and Joseph W. Mutaboba, Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations.

22. Statements were made by representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: World Family Organization and Women's Federation for World Peace International.

## Action taken by the Council

23. At the 17th meeting, on 7 July, the Council adopted the draft ministerial communiqué submitted by the President (E/1999/L.21). The Council decided to annex the President's summary of the high-level segment to the communiqué. The text read as follows:

## Ministerial communiqué of the high-level segment submitted by the President of the Council

"We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations participating in the high-level policy dialogue and the high-level segment of the 1999 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, held from 5 to 7 July 1999, having considered the theme "The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women", have adopted the following communiqué:

"1. We recognize that there is a wide consensus that productive employment plays a central role in poverty eradication. At the same time, we recognize that in many cases women and men suffer poverty or become impoverished for different reasons and through different processes and face different opportunities and constraints in coping with poverty and in accessing labour markets and sustainable livelihoods. The mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all policies aimed at poverty eradication and employment creation, including through gender impact analysis, is all the more crucial as women constitute the majority of people living in poverty. Therefore, we undertake to adopt effective poverty eradication strategies which address employment creation and gender-specific policies. Combating gender inequalities is central to successful poverty eradication efforts and must include the establishment and implementation of policies aimed at eliminating all forms of discrimination against women.

"2. We reaffirm the commitment we made at the World Summit for Social Development to the goal of eradicating poverty in the world through decisive national actions and international cooperation, as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind and to promote the goal of full employment as a basic priority of our economic and social policies, and to enable all men and women to

attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment and work. We also reaffirm that, as set forth at the Fourth World Conference on Women, we are determined to promote women's economic independence, including employment, and to eradicate the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women by addressing the structural causes of poverty through changes in economic structures, ensuring equal access for all women, including those in rural areas, as vital development agents, to productive resources, opportunities and public services.

"3. Strategies to eradicate poverty, promote productive employment and achieve gender equality must be designed to address the conditions and needs of women and men on equal and equitable terms. They should be comprehensive in their approach, while allowing for the flexible use of policy instruments in accordance with specific national and sectoral conditions, including those in the rural sectors, and should be pursued, as appropriate, at the national and international level with a particular focus on:

"(a) The need to promote dynamic, sustained and human-centred economic growth and development in a manner that generates employment;

"(b) The need to aim at improving market outcomes for all people living in poverty, especially women and vulnerable groups;

"(c) The development of public policies to provide an enabling environment for the efficient functioning of markets while promoting equality and social protection;

"(d) The promotion of women's equal participation with men in the planning, decision-making and implementation of strategies.

"4. In a broader perspective, strategies to eradicate poverty, promote productive employment and achieve gender equality should be supported by an enabling international environment by taking action, *inter alia*:

"(a) To undertake measures aimed at the effective mobilization of financial resources for development;

"(b) To call upon developed countries to strengthen their efforts to achieve, as soon as possible, the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and, where agreed, within that target to earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for the least developed countries;

"(c) To encourage appropriate technology transfer and support capacity building for developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

"(d) To promote international cooperation aimed at sustained economic growth, stable markets and job creation;

"(e) To reinforce conditions for a more favourable climate for international trade;

"(f) To increase investment in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition.

"5. Empowerment of people, in particular the empowerment of women, is a prerequisite of effective poverty eradication and employment creation strategies. All States parties should fully implement their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[2] and other international human rights instruments.

"6. Democracy, the rule of law and the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, are important prerequisites of an effective poverty eradication and employment creation strategy. In the field of employment and work, the International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions as well as the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work[3] provide a realistic framework. Participatory mechanisms, including tripartite forms of social dialogue among Governments, and workers' and employers' organizations, can facilitate policy-making. The involvement of women's organizations in participatory mechanisms and the role of women within relevant organizations should be emphasized to ensure that women's voices are heard in deciding policies on employment and work. Furthermore, women should fully participate in labour unions.

"7. Employment growth has an impact on poverty reduction. Depending on specific national conditions and levels of development, an effective development strategy could include targeting key economic sectors for employment-intensive growth, including agriculture and non-traditional sectors. Employment growth should be associated with wages that yield incomes above the poverty line and with a

significant reduction of underemployment, disguised unemployment and under-remunerated work among women and men at the same time. It is equally important that women and men directly control the use of the wages they earn.

"8. An increasing number of women as compared with men are living in poverty. The causes of this feminization of poverty are multiple. Women derive less benefit from employment because they continue to encounter discrimination in many areas, such as wage discrimination, occupational segregation, differential treatment in social protection and lack of opportunities in education and training. Women's historically greater share of responsibility for family well-being and their role as childbearers are also factors that contribute to discrimination against women in the paid labour market. Therefore, we call for targeted policies and strategies aimed at empowerment of women including promulgation and enforcement of anti-discrimination and non-discriminatory legislation and equal employment opportunity policies and promotion of access to affordable, quality childcare services and, as appropriate, ways to assist with other family-caring responsibilities. A proactive gender policy requires equal access by girls and women to education and training, removal of wage differentials both through legislation and in practice, to guarantee the right of men and women to equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, and equal access to high-level and decision-making occupations. We also call for increased efforts to reduce the gap in unemployment rates between women and men, including through job creation policies.

"9. In all countries, and in particular in many developing countries and countries with economies in transition, strategies for stimulating the development of small and medium-sized enterprises as well as other forms of self-employment, including through entrepreneurial training, especially for women can encourage employment creation and lead to poverty eradication.

"10. In recognition of the role of microcredit in poverty eradication, empowerment of women and employment generation, we encourage the strengthening of existing and emerging microcredit institutions and their capacities, including through the support of international financial institutions, so that credit and related services for self-employment and income-generating activities may be made available to an increasing number of people living in poverty, in particular women, and to further develop, where appropriate, other microfinance instruments.

"11. The emergence of non-standard forms of work may offer more flexible hours and greater compatibility with family responsibilities but may often entail lower levels of social security coverage and employment rights, lower wages, and limited career prospects. We recognize the need for appropriate employment security, as far as possible, for women and men workers who are engaged in part-time, contract, seasonal or temporary work, and social protection for those engaged outside the formal sectors. We recognize the need to ensure that such types of work are not sub-standard in terms of working conditions, social protection and protection against unfair dismissal. We acknowledge the need to address the contribution of women to the economy, both their unremunerated and remunerated work. We need also to address the conditions of those working at home.

"12. We note the large numbers of women from developing countries and some countries with economies in transition who continue to venture forth to more affluent countries in search of a living for themselves and their families as a consequence of poverty, unemployment and other socio-economic conditions, and acknowledge the duty of sending States to work for conditions that provide employment and security to their citizens. A number of women migrant workers have been subjected to violence and victimized by traffickers for purposes of commercial and sexual exploitation through prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation. We recognize the need to promote and protect the rights and welfare of all migrants and encourage member States to consider acceding to and ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[4] as well as the Slavery Convention of 1926.[5] We also invite concerned member States to consider adopting appropriate legal measures against intermediaries who deliberately encourage the clandestine movement of workers and who exploit women migrant workers.

"13. We encourage member States to adopt and/or implement legislation to ensure the elimination of violence against women, emphasizing the prevention of violence and the prosecution of offenders, and to take measures to ensure the protection of women subjected to violence, and their

access to just and effective remedies, including compensation, indemnification and healing.

"14. In many countries, especially developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the informal sector generates employment and serves as a buffer against unemployment and poverty, particularly in times of economic crisis. However, employment in the informal sector is characterized by low levels of productivity and income. As one possible policy approach for the informal sector, these shortcomings could be addressed through the improvement of access for those living in poverty, especially women and vulnerable groups, to credit, especially microcredit, training, technology and marketing techniques, while efforts continued to incorporate the informal sector as much as possible into the formal economy, as appropriate.

"15. Employment policies should focus on gender sensitive labour policies that strengthen the interrelation among education, training, employment promotion, and social protection policies, taking into consideration a life cycle approach. We also recommend that public policies avoid reduction of expenditure on health, education and skill development that benefits the people living in poverty and those most in need under conditions of budgetary constraints. We recommend the further promotion and implementation of the 20/20 initiative in interested countries with a view to bolstering policies and resource allocation in these decisive areas.

"16. We welcome the adoption of the ILO Convention (No. 182) concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its eighty-seventh session, Geneva, 17 June 1999. We reiterate our call upon all States to translate into concrete action their commitment to the progressive and effective elimination of child labour contrary to accepted international standards, and urge them, as a matter of priority, to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, such as forced labour, bonded labour and other forms of slavery.

"17. Education is a human right and an essential tool for achieving the goals of equality, development and peace. Non-discriminatory education benefits both girls and boys and thus ultimately contributes to more equal relationships between women and men. Equality of access to and attainment of educational qualifications are necessary if more women are to become agents of change. Literacy of women is an important key to improving health, nutrition and education in the family and to empowering women to participate in decision making in society. Investing in formal and non-formal education and training for girls and women, with its exceptionally high social and economic return, has proved to be one of the best means of achieving sustainable development and economic growth that is both sustained and sustainable.

"18. The international community has a key role to play in supporting efforts to eradicate poverty, promote productive employment and achieve gender equality. In this regard, the mobilization of new and additional financial resources from all sources, national and international, is required. Furthermore, debt relief under the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative should strive to achieve faster, deeper and broader debt relief to eliminate unsustainable debt burdens for the poorest countries. Such an initiative, along with other efforts towards the solution of the debt problem, can promote greater investment in poverty eradication and employment policies with specific regard to gender equality.

"19. We call upon the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to take consistent, coherent, coordinated and joint actions in support of national efforts to eradicate poverty, with particular attention to employment creation and work and the empowerment and advancement of women. We also request them, and especially the United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies, to translate the recommendations of the present communiqué into concrete actions and request the Secretary General to submit a progress report to the Council at its substantive session of 2000."

*Notes*

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 13.*

[2] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

[3] See *ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up Adopted by the International Labour Conference at its Eighty-sixth Session, Geneva, 18 June 1998* (Geneva, International Labour Office, 1998).

[4] General Assembly resolution 45/158, annex.

[5] *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments, Volume I (First Part), Universal Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XIV.1) (Vol. I, Part 1), sect. 6.28.

# Chapter IV
## Operational activities segment

## Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation

1. At its substantive session, the Council considered the question of operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation (agenda item 3) at its 18th to 24th and 38th meetings, on 8, 9 12, 13 and 23 July 1999. A high-level meeting on operational activities was held at its 18th and 19th meetings, on 8 July. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.18 and 19). At its 20th and 21st meetings, on 9 July, the Council held an informal dialogue with the heads of United Nations funds and programmes. At its 22nd and 23rd meetings, on 12 July, the Council held an informal dialogue with the United Nations system country teams from Indonesia and Mali. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.22 and 23). At its 24th meeting, on 13 July, the Council considered the following: follow-up to policy recommendations of the Assembly on the implementation of Assembly resolution 53/192; reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme; and economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary record (E/1999/SR.24).

### A. Poverty eradication and capacity-building

2. At its substantive session, the Council considered the question of poverty eradication and capacity-building (agenda item 3 (a)) at its 18th to 21st and 38th meetings, on 8, 9 and 23 July. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.18-21 and 38). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on poverty eradication, capacity-building, resources and funding, and the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes (E/1999/55);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/192 (E/1999/55/Add.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on comprehensive statistical data on operational activities for development for the year 1997 (E/1999/55/Add.2).

#### Action taken by the Council

3. Under agenda item 3 (a), the Council adopted resolution 1999/5.

**Poverty eradication and capacity-building**

4. At the 38th meeting, on 23 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Percy Metsing Mangoaela (Lesotho), introduced a draft resolution (E/1999/L.23) entitled "Operational activities for development: poverty eradication, capacity-building, resources and funding," submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution. See Council resolution 1999/5.

### B. Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly

6. At its substantive session, the Council considered the question of follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly (agenda item 3 (b)) at its 22nd to 24th and 38th meetings, on 12, 13 and 23 July. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.22-24 and 38). The Council had before it a document entitled "Consolidated list of issues related to the coordination of operational activities, 1999" (E/1999/CRP.1).

#### Action taken by the Council

7. Under agenda item 3 (b), the Council adopted resolution 1999/6.

### Progress on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/192

8. At the 38th meeting, on 23 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Percy Metsing Mangoaela (Lesotho), introduced a draft resolution (E/1999/L.24) entitled "Operational activities for development: progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/192", submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

9. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the resolution. See Council resolution 1999/6.

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the observers for Guyana (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) and Finland (on behalf of the European Union).

## C. Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

11. At its substantive session, the Council considered the reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme (agenda item 3 (c)) at its 24th and 38th meetings, on 13 and 23 July. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.24 and 38). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund on its first regular session of 1999 (DP/1999/8);[1]

(b) Decisions adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund at its second regular session of 1999 (DP/1999/14 and Corr.1);[1]

(c) Decisions adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund at its annual session of 1999 (DP/1999/29 and Corr.1);[1]

(d) Annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund to the Economic and Social Council (E/1999/9);

(e) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on the work of its first regular session of 1999 (E/1999/34 (Part I)-E/ICEF/1997/7 (Part I));[2]

(f) Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme (E/1999/36);[3]

(g) Annual report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to the Economic and Social Council (E/1999/47);

(h) Annual report of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, 1999 (E/1999/58);

(i) Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed amendment to the General Regulations of the World Food Programme (E/1999/87);

(j) Extract from the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its 1999 annual session (7-11 June 1999) (E/1999/L.20).

### Action taken by the Council

12. Under agenda item 3 (c), the Council adopted decisions 1999/219 and 1999/220.

#### Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

13. At the 38th meeting, on 23 July, on the proposal of the President, the Council took note of the documents submitted under the agenda item. See Council decision 1999/219.

#### Amendment to the General Regulations of the World Food Programme

14. At the 38th meeting, on 23 July, the Council, on the proposal of the President, took note of the proposed amendment to the General Regulations of the World Food Programme recommended by the Executive Board of the World Food Programme in accordance with article XV of the General Regulations.

15. At the same meeting, the Council decided to endorse the proposed amendment and to submit it to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-fourth session. See Council decision 1999/220.

## D. Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

16. At its substantive session, the Council considered the question of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (agenda item 3 (d)) at its 24th and 38th meetings, on 13 and 23 July. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.24 and 38). The Council had before it the report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (DP/1999/L.12).

### Action taken by the Council

17. At the 38th meeting, on 23 July, on the proposal of the President, the Council took note of the document submitted under agenda item 3 (d). See Council decision 1999/221.

*Notes*

[1] To be issued in *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 15* (E/1999/35).

[2] To be issued in *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 14* (E/1999/34/Rev.1).

[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 16.*

# Chapter V
## Coordination segment

## Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following theme: Development of Africa: implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development

1. At its substantive session, the Council held a discussion on coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following theme: Development of Africa: implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development (agenda item 4) at its 29th to 32nd and 44th meetings, on 16, 19, 20 and 28 July 1999. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.29-32 and 44). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on development in Africa: implementation of the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council and the General Assembly, specifically the implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on Africa (A/54/133-E/1999/79);

(b) Letter dated 1 July 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Blueprint for a United States-Africa Partnership for the Twenty-first Century, Washington, D.C., 18 March 1999 (E/1999/104-S/1999/754).

2. At the 30th meeting, on 19 July, the Council held a panel discussion on the United Nations system response to the Secretary-General's report and harmonization of international and bilateral initiatives on Africa in which the following panellists participated: Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, K. Y. Amoako, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa, and Jean-Louis Sarbib, Vice-President for Africa, World Bank.

3. At the 32nd meeting, on 20 July, the Council held a panel discussion on poverty eradication and sustainable human development, in which the following panellists participated: Thelma Awori, Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa, United Nations Development Programme; Peter Piot, Executive Director, Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome; and Jean-Jacques Graisse, Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme.

### Action taken by the Council

4. Under agenda item 4, the Council adopted agreed conclusions 1999/2 and decision 1999/270.

#### Agreed conclusions 1999/2

5. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Alfonso Valdivieso (Colombia), introduced the draft agreed conclusions (E/1999/L.38) on the development of Africa: implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development.

6. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft agreed conclusions. The text read as follows:

### Agreed conclusions 1999/2

"1. The economic recovery and development of Africa has been a priority concern for the United Nations since the mid-1980s when the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development[1] was launched. In addition, the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,[2] which followed in 1991, and the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s combined with other activities in the areas of peacemaking and peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance to further emphasize the commitment of the international community and the United Nations to helping to create an enabling environment for development.

"2. In considering the item entitled 'Development of Africa: implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development' during its coordination segment of

1999, the Economic and Social Council reaffirms the importance of United Nations participation in the development of Africa and underscores its intention to ensure that all United Nations initiatives on Africa and those of other multilateral and bilateral donors are maximized for the benefit of the African people.

"3. The Council again welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.[3] The Council restates its strong support for the link made by the Secretary-General in his report between peace, democracy, human rights and development. The Council reiterates the importance of a stable and predictable political and economic environment for local and foreign investment and other international financial flows, which remain essential for Africa's economic and social development.

"4. The Council takes note of the recent spurt of economic growth and development in Africa. While recognizing the fact that the recent gains made by African countries are grounded in economic and political reforms, the Council recognizes their fragility, particularly against the backdrop of still vastly underdeveloped human and institutional capacities, the recent volatility in the global financial system and its effect on the price of commodities exported by the region. Against this backdrop, the Council recognizes and appreciates the urgent need to sustain and accelerate the conditions for these recent gains towards eliminating poverty, raising the standard of living of the population, preventing and reducing conflicts and integrating the economies of the region more closely into the global economy.

"5. In order to consolidate and accelerate the gains made, the Council, while noting with concern the declining trend in official development assistance (ODA) to African countries and its impact on the countries of the region, also urges the international community to improve access to markets and to continue to assist African countries in making better use of existing market opportunities already available while facilitating foreign direct investment (FDI), ensuring adequate flows of ODA in tandem with agreed targets and providing deeper relief from external debt. In this context, the Council welcomes the recent decision of the seven major industrialized countries (Group of Seven) to improve the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative and grant additional debt relief. The Council calls for a more concerted effort to achieve rapid progress towards faster and deeper debt relief under the HIPC initiative and through other means to ensure a permanent exit from the unsustainable debt burden of the poorest countries. In this regard, the Council urges that any International Monetary Fund (IMF) gold reserve sales should be undertaken in a limited and cautiously phased manner so as to minimize any adverse effect on African and other developing gold-producing countries. Furthermore, the Council welcomes the pledge by the Group of Seven to make substantial contributions to the HIPC Trust Fund to fund debt relief measures. Special attention should be given to post-conflict countries, including those adversely affected by conflicts in neighbouring countries and by natural disasters.

"6. The Council notes the importance that African countries assign to the need for domestic reforms in order to ensure an adequate environment for development, to create relevant institutions and regulations for the promotion of democracy, good governance, political accountability and transparency, respect for human rights and the rule of law for the promotion of sustainable development. Further reforms related, *inter alia*, to the strengthening of administrative and institutional capacity and the functioning of the financial systems are needed. It is also necessary to engender a strong civil society which is able to help Governments take decisions with the active and full involvement of a broad spectrum of the population, including local groups, particularly women. At the same time, the Council urges that political will be sustained with renewed and concerted action.

"7. The Council recognizes the efforts of the funds, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system to follow up and implement the recommendations contained in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General, while noting that only one year has elapsed since the presentation of that report to the Security Council. In this regard, the Council calls upon all the relevant components of the United Nations system to strengthen their support to African countries in their efforts in the areas of governance, poverty eradication and social development, and creation of an enabling environment for the expansion of trade and investment, and towards regional integration and cooperation.

"8. The Council recognizes the existence of broad agreement on the priorities for African development as defined in the Cairo Agenda for Action[4] and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of

Africa in the 1990s. It nevertheless also recognizes the need to take note of the variety of country-specific situations and needs in the African region, which is also reflected in the variety of coordination mechanisms adopted by the United Nations system and host countries to ensure a harmonized and integrated response to national development challenges. Ranking of priorities for partnership should thus be based on an Africa-driven agenda and on ownership by the African countries, and should take place at the national and local levels in cooperation with development partners and civil society.

"9. However, the Council recognizes the critical importance of a number of priorities to all African countries. The strengthening of education and health systems is critical to building the human resources necessary for tackling the challenges of globalization and sustainable human development. The Council takes note with concern that the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic constitutes a major threat to the economic and social development of many African countries. Appropriate national and international strategies are essential to prevent the spread and mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS effectively. Therefore, the Council calls on the international community to support the efforts of the African Governments in the implementation of those strategies. In this regard, the Council especially welcomes the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS), sponsored by the United Nations funds and programmes and the World Bank.

"10. The Council notes the key role played by agriculture in the overall economic development of Africa and notes the various structural impediments to improving the supply capacity in general, including aspects of the marketing of their products. The Council emphasizes that continued efforts are needed to enhance market access for products of export interest to Africa and to support the efforts of African economies at diversification and building of supply capacity. The Council calls on the international community to support broad-based trade liberalization and to address in the next round of multilateral trade negotiations all the pertinent issues that can hinder the ability of African economies to be more competitive.

"11. The Council also recognizes the importance of industrial development, including the diversification of the mineral sector. The Council calls on all development partners to effectively support the implementation of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization. The Council also urges all relevant components of the United Nations system to work closely with Governments and the private sector in Africa to foster industrial production and development. Increased FDI is important for sustaining current growth rates and improving trade flows, and Africa needs this to strengthen its investment in human and physical capital. In this context, the Council stresses the important role of Governments in ensuring a sound and conducive environment for the growth of the private sector.

"12. The Council notes that the development of technology in Africa has lagged behind that in other regions of the world. Recognizing its importance, especially information technology, in creating new poles of growth, the Council therefore calls on the international community to effectively support the strengthening of the structures for technology development and urges Governments and international development institutions to facilitate the transfer of technology, particularly privately owned technologies, especially to the least developed African countries, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as affirmed in the annex to General Assembly resolution S-19/2 of 28 June 1997.

"13. The Council stresses the importance of various programmes and initiatives that are being undertaken by the United Nations, bilateral donors and multilateral institutions in mobilizing the efforts of the international community for the development of Africa. While welcoming those various initiatives, the Council believes that more effective coordination and harmonization of the implementation of all initiatives, better funding and stronger ownership by recipient countries will enhance the attainment of sustainable development of Africa.

"14. The Council requests the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as other multilateral and regional organizations and bilateral donors, to collaborate with national Governments and among themselves, in order to ensure consistency of the various coordination mechanisms, to create synergy, avoid duplication and contradictions and simplify, as appropriate, modalities and procedures required for the functioning of those mechanisms. At the same time, the role of the

different stakeholders, namely, Governments, parliaments and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of various programmes and initiatives needs to be clearly recognized and defined.

"15. The Council reaffirms that national development strategies should form the basis and framework for overall coordination. The Council recognizes the need to develop, under the leadership of the recipient country, country-specific comprehensive coordination mechanisms to enhance overall development programme ownership by African countries. In this regard, the enhancement of ownership in recipient countries should be facilitated through efforts by members of the resident coordinator system and other external partners in development to build the capacity of recipient countries to set their own strategies and to coordinate programmes themselves, including hosting consultative group meetings, where appropriate.

"16. The Council recognizes in this regard that the Bretton Woods institutions are increasingly involved in the promotion of the development of Africa. The Council welcomes the World Bank Special Programme of Assistance for Africa and the recent programme for the Partnership for Capacity-Building in Africa, to be implemented jointly by the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme. The Council also recognizes the efforts of the Bretton Woods institutions to enhance field-level coordination through mechanisms such as consultative group meetings, and programming instruments and initiatives such as the country assistance strategies, the policy framework papers and the recently introduced Comprehensive Development Framework in interested countries.

"17. The Council recognizes as well the importance of recent United Nations programming and coordination mechanisms aimed at increasing the effectiveness of United Nations activities at the field level, such as the common country assessment, and the effective role that could be played by the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. In view of these various United Nations system efforts, the Council considers it important for the organizations of the United Nations system to try to build coherence among such initiatives and, to the extent possible, to consolidate these initiatives through enhanced overall cooperation and collaboration, while taking into account their respective mandates.

"18. The Council notes, however, that the ability of the United Nations system to play a catalytic role also requires stable, predictable and assured resource levels, in particular core resource levels, which are an essential ingredient in the effective functioning of the United Nations system, and urges donor countries to give priority attention to increasing their core contributions.

"19. The Council also calls for the strengthening of the existing coordination arrangements at the global and regional levels. The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) should more effectively ensure that inter-agency consultations are consolidated to facilitate the coordination and harmonization of Africa-related initiatives. In addition, ACC should consider broadening the coverage of countries and the clusters of priority areas to reflect the original commitments in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. Also, the Council invites the Committee for Programme and Coordination to continue to enhance its effectiveness, particularly in regard to the coordinated follow-up and monitoring and evaluation of United Nations system programmes and initiatives for the development of Africa. It is important to further clarify the role played by the organizations of the United Nations system in support of the priority areas identified in various United Nations-sponsored initiatives to support Africa's overall development.

"20. The Council also recognizes the existence of several non-United Nations initiatives designed to promote the development of Africa. The effective coordination and harmonization of these strategies and objectives with those of the United Nations system and the host countries will enhance the attainment of sustainable development in Africa. In that spirit, the Council welcomes the first annual regional coordination meeting of the United Nations system in Africa, convened at Nairobi in March 1999. In connection with possible future regional coordination meetings, the Council recommends that thematic consultations among all development partners be held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the involvement of the Organization of African Unity and African regional and subregional economic communities, including the African Economic Community, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Southern African Development Community and the Arab Maghreb Union. In this

regard, the Council calls on African countries and their development partners to organize selected thematic consultations at the country level in an effort to better coordinate and harmonize the implementation of the programmes and initiatives for Africa. During these consultations, common priorities at the policy and operational levels should be discussed with a view to encouraging donor agencies and countries to streamline and rationalize their respective development assistance activities. The donor community also needs to better coordinate its own development assistance strategies so as not to place undue burdens on the capacity of African countries to implement their own national development programmes.

"21. The Council further recognizes the importance of regional integration projects and encourages the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as other multilateral and regional organizations and bilateral donors to support them.

"22. The Council recommends that a linkage should be established between the discussion and conclusions on coordination and harmonization reached at the present coordination segment with the preparatory work for the Council's high-level segment on African development, to be scheduled before 2002, and the final review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s which will occur in that same year. To this end, the Council requests the Secretary-General to commission an independent evaluation of the performance of the New Agenda, including its relationship with other relevant initiatives. Such evaluation should clearly show achievements and shortcomings in overall performance, particularly in regard to identified priority areas and in meeting agreed targets. The evaluation should also make recommendations for future action, including consideration of successor arrangements, and be completed with sufficient lead time for inclusion in the preparatory work for the final review of the New Agenda, scheduled to take place in 2002.

"23. The Council further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its high-level segment on African development, to be scheduled before 2002, a report outlining, among other things, the progress achieved in strengthening African capacity to coordinate international development assistance at the country level and at the subregional and regional levels, and in developing country-specific as well as comprehensive coordination mechanisms. The report should also consider ways to improve coordination and harmonization among the various international initiatives established to assist Africa's development and, in particular, the possibilities for rationalizing the number of separate United Nations initiatives so as to reduce duplication and overlap while maintaining the overall scope of agreed priorities and targets. The main focus of the report should be at the country level, but it should also take into account regional and global linkages, particularly in regard to coordination and harmonization.

"24. The Council reaffirms that coordination and harmonization efforts of the various international initiatives to support Africa's overall development, particularly at the country level, should be designed under the leadership of recipient countries to ensure that African countries have ownership of their development programmes and the capacity to effectively coordinate international development efforts in a sustainable manner. Coordination and harmonization efforts should also add coherence among the various international initiatives established to provide assistance to Africa's overall development and utilize simple yet effective coordination mechanisms so as to alleviate the administrative and financial coordination burden on African Governments."

**Development of Africa: implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development**

7. Also at the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Alfonso Valdivieso (Colombia), introduced a draft decision (E/1999/L.39) entitled "Development of Africa: implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development", submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

8. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft decision. See Council decision 1999/270.

9. After the adoption of the draft decision, the representative of Cuba made a statement.

*Notes*

[1] General Assembly resolution S-13/2, annex.

[2] General Assembly resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

[3] A/52/871-S/1998/318.

[4] A/50/647, annex II, AHG resolution 236 (XXXI).

# Chapter VI
# Humanitarian affairs segment

## Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

1. At its substantive session, the Council considered the question of special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance (agenda item 5) at its 25th to 28th and 37th meetings, from 13 to 15 and on 23 July 1999. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.25-28 and 37). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Saint Kitts and Nevis (A/54/129-E/1999/73);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on collaborative efforts to assist Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama and progress made with the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of the affected countries (A/54/130-E/1999/72);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti (A/54/153-E/1999/93);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (A/54/154-E/1999/94);

(e) Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Needs Assessment Mission dispatched by the Secretary-General to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia between 16 and 27 May 1999 (E/1999/82);

(f) Letter dated 29 June 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a Memorandum dated 25 June 1999 on the Humanitarian Consequences of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (E/1999/97);

(g) Letter dated 29 June 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a provisional assessment of civilian casualties and destruction in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from 24 March to 8 June 1999 (E/1999/98);

(h) Update to the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Saint Kitts and Nevis (E/1999/CRP.2);

(i) Update to the report of the Secretary-General on collaborative efforts to assist Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama and on the progress made with the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of the affected countries (E/1999/CRP.3).

2. At the 25th meeting, on 13 July, the Council held an informal dialogue with the executive heads of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary record (E/1999/SR.25).

3. At the 26th meeting, on 14 July, the Council held two panel discussions with resident and humanitarian coordinators, one on natural disasters, including hurricanes Mitch and Georges, and the other on complex emergencies. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary record (E/1999/SR.26).

### Action taken by the Council

4. At the 37th meeting, on 23 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Alyaksandr Sychov (Belarus), introduced the draft agreed conclusions on special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance (E/1999/L.25).

5. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft agreed conclusions as set out below:

### Agreed conclusions 1999/1

"1. The Economic and Social Council is addressing the theme of "International cooperation and coordinated responses to the humanitarian emergencies, in particular in the transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development" in its second humanitarian segment. In this context, the Council reaffirms the guiding principles contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/182 of

19 December 1991 and also reaffirms the agreed conclusions of the 1998 humanitarian segment of the Council.[1] These documents and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly provide the basis for the present agreed conclusions.

"2. The Council takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (A/54/154-E/1999/94), the reports of the Secretary-General addressing progress made in the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts for those countries affected by hurricanes Mitch and Georges (A/54/130-E/1999/72 and A/54/129-E/1999/73) and the report of the Secretary-General on the assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti (A/54/153-E/1999/93). The report of the Inter-Agency Needs Assessment Mission dispatched by the Secretary-General to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (E/1999/82, annex) was also made available to the Council. The Council welcomes the efforts being made by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) in order to fully implement the recommendations of last year's agreed conclusions and to enhance the coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations. The Council recognizes that further efforts are needed, *inter alia*, in ensuring a coherent approach to relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, as well as in enhancing disaster preparedness and local capacities for disaster response.

"3. The Council reaffirms that humanitarian assistance should be provided in accordance with and with due respect for the guiding principles contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/182.

"4. The Council expresses its concern, in the year of the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Geneva Conventions, about the continuous erosion, in many cases, in the respect for international humanitarian and human rights law and principles, both in terms of denial of safe and unimpeded access to people in need and through deliberate violence against all those protected under international humanitarian law, especially women and children. The Council therefore calls upon all parties to conflicts to respect international humanitarian and human rights law and stresses the importance for all Governments, relevant United Nations system actors, non-governmental organizations and other partners to further promote and diffuse such laws and integrate them into their activities. The Council also calls upon all parties to take measures to ensure the safety and security of international and local humanitarian personnel. Furthermore, the Council calls upon all States to consider signing and ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.[2]

"5. The Council welcomes the progress made in strengthening the consolidated appeal process, particularly the joint launch of 1999 consolidated appeals. The Council notes that there is substantial further work to be done to strengthen the consolidated appeal process, especially in the area of prioritization within and among various sectors of activity, and to ensure an effective system for strategic monitoring and evaluation. The Council also notes the importance of including security requirements of humanitarian personnel in the consolidated appeals. The Council expresses concern at the lack of adequate resources and response for addressing humanitarian emergencies and the transition from relief to development and regrets the persistent trend of low and uneven funding of the consolidated appeals. The Council underlines that failure to provide adequate resources and balanced distributions, both in geographical and in sectoral terms, weakens the ability of humanitarian organizations to respond in a coherent and timely manner to emergencies. The Council therefore calls upon the international community, particularly donor countries, to increase their contributions to all consolidated appeals.

"6. The Council requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to place the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat on a sound financial basis. In this context, the Council welcomes the Secretary-General's recommendation, within the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, to allocate increased funding and staffing from the United Nations regular budget to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

"7. The Council takes note of the proposals to enhance the functioning of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, and particularly welcomes the proposal that the Fund should also be utilized actively for natural disasters. The Council recommends that the proposed changes be reviewed at the fifty fourth session of the General Assembly, with a view to adopting a relevant decision.

"8. The Council calls upon all States to undertake joint efforts to create an enabling environment for the

promotion of economic growth and sustainable development, and to ensure respect for all human rights, including the right to development, in order to contribute to durable peace and to the prevention and mitigation of humanitarian emergencies.

"9. The Council encourages the important contribution that civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, has been making in the context of global responses to serious situations resulting from humanitarian emergencies. Its timely action to respond to such emergencies has demonstrated that this sector of society, through non-governmental organizations, plays an important role in mobilizing international action.

"10. In relation to transitions, the Council reiterates that relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development are generally not consecutive but often overlap and occur simultaneously. The Council therefore recognizes that a comprehensive approach to both natural disasters and complex emergencies is needed. In this regard, the Council stresses the need for early joint planning and prioritization, the central role of capacity-building, and the importance of a clearly agreed division of labour through inter-agency collaboration, as well as the need for more flexible financing systems for transitional programming. The Council emphasizes that the planning for rehabilitation should begin at a very early stage, local actors should be involved, existing local capacities should be integrated, and the assessment of needs should be demand-driven rather than agency-driven, with a view to ensuring an effective response. The Council notes the role of developing countries not only as recipients, but also as active contributors to the solution of these problems. The Council welcomes the efforts of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to enhance inter-agency coordination of transitional activities. The Council further emphasizes that a more systematic evaluation is needed and that lessons learned from previous experience should be more systematically taken into account. The Council affirms the view of the Secretary-General that contingency planning for both sudden reversals and unexpected opportunities is to be undertaken. The Council also recognizes the need to give proper consideration to the issue of the humanitarian impact of sanctions, in particular on women and children, with a view to minimizing the humanitarian effects of sanctions.

"11. The Council notes that studies are under way regarding the transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development for IASC, as well as by the World Bank and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

"12. The Council expresses its deep concern at the increasing number and scale of natural disasters in recent years that often strike countries that lack the resources to cope adequately with them. These disasters have led to massive loss of life and damage to economies and physical infrastructure. The Council emphasizes the need for further concrete measures to reduce the vulnerability of societies to natural hazards, particularly in developing countries, small island developing States and landlocked countries. In this context, the Council reaffirms that disaster reduction forms an integral part of sustainable development strategies and needs to be considered in development plans of all vulnerable countries and communities. The Council also reaffirms that within such preventive strategies, disaster preparedness and early warning systems must be further strengthened at country and regional levels, *inter alia*, through better coordination among relevant United Nations bodies and cooperation with Governments of affected countries and regional and other relevant organizations. The aim of this strengthening is to maximize the effectiveness of natural disaster response and reduce the impact of natural disasters, particularly in developing countries. These strategies should take into account a gender perspective. Particular efforts should be undertaken in developing countries to enhance local capacity in disaster response and to utilize existing in-country capacities, which may be available closer to the site of a disaster and at lower cost.

"13. As a highly relevant contemporary example in relation to transitions, the Council recalls the devastating effects of hurricanes Mitch and Georges which struck Central America and the Caribbean in 1998. The Council underlines the need for further support for the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of the affected countries. In the context of the aftermath of hurricane Mitch, the Council welcomes the innovative approaches used to link the various phases of international assistance, coordinated through the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, to launch a United Nations inter-agency transitional appeal for voluntary contributions for relief and immediate rehabilitation,

while forging links with longer-term rehabilitation. The Council also welcomes the efforts of the joint Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and World Health Organization (WHO)/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Disaster Response and Recovery Mission undertaken in all countries affected by hurricane Mitch. The Council stresses the need to ensure adequate assessment of and follow-up to these innovative approaches and to draw the appropriate lessons for improving preparedness and response capacities and the integration of disaster reduction components into future development planning. The Council recognizes that these experiences could be developed and adapted to other situations that may arise in any country or region.

"14. The Council expresses its deep concern at the severe impact of the El Niño phenomenon on several regions of the world during 1997-1998. In this context, the Council welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on El Niño to implement General Assembly resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997 and 53/185 of 15 December 1998 and notes that the Secretary-General will report to the Council on the outcome and conclusions of the first Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on El Niño held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in November 1998.

"15. The Council notes that the transition phase after natural disasters and other emergencies is often excessively long and characterized by a number of gaps, and that relief agencies in planning for the meeting of immediate needs should place these needs in a perspective of sustainable development whenever such an approach is possible. At the field level, the Council calls on the resident coordinator and relevant agencies to improve response preparedness and capacity-building, including by maintaining a dialogue with all major actors before, during and after disasters, especially the Governments of disaster-prone countries. At the inter-agency level, the Council encourages the Emergency Relief Coordinator, IASC members and other members of the United Nations system to expand their efforts to promote response preparedness for natural disasters and other emergencies at the international, regional and national levels. In this context, the Council commends the efforts of the Emergency Relief Coordinator to expand the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) teams to include more representatives from countries of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

"16. The Council recognizes that more rapid access to resources for international emergency relief is a key factor for strengthening response: of particular value are measures aiming at increasing the availability of funds immediately after a disaster. In this context, the Council stresses that rehabilitation funds should be rapidly released so as to prevent dependence on relief funding.

"17. With regard to transitions from complex humanitarian emergencies, the Council affirms that early reconstruction and development activities can complement and support political stabilization and the implementation of peace agreements. The Council emphasizes that relief-development linkages cannot wait for the arrival of a full-fledged peace, but must be planned at the earliest possible moment. In this regard, the Council stresses that while development agencies must become involved early in a crisis, humanitarian agencies, within their respective mandates, must also integrate a development perspective in their planning. The Council also recognizes the importance of maintaining throughout the emergency, wherever possible, a certain degree of developmental functions, such as education and health care. In this regard the Council welcomes UNICEF's recently adopted rights-based programming, which provides a framework in which relief, recovery, rehabilitation and development are programmatically linked. The Council also acknowledges the importance of all efforts, conducted in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including peace-building measures such as confidence-building, that are relevant in transitions from complex emergencies.

"18. In this context, the Council stresses the need for a coordinated and comprehensive approach by the United Nations and other interested partners in planning the transition from humanitarian emergency assistance to rehabilitation and reconstruction in the Balkans. The Council underlines the importance of an adequate and effective United Nations presence in all affected Balkan countries. The Council notes the establishment of the Office of the United Nations Regional Coordinator for the Balkans and stresses the importance of a coherent regional strategy. The Council requests the Secretary- General to ensure that updated information relating to strengthening coordination of the transition process in the Balkans

is made available to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

"19. While acknowledging that different planning and programming frameworks will be relevant in different contexts, the Council stresses the importance of strategic and inclusive approaches, including strategic frameworks, to countries in crisis. The Council notes the decision to launch a Strategic Framework for Sierra Leone. The Council encourages the further development of the strategic framework concept and in that context requests the Secretary-General to submit recommendations on the preparation, scope and applicability of strategic frameworks, taking also into account lessons learned and the views of concerned Governments. It calls upon the Secretary-General and the Emergency Relief Coordinator to ensure a high degree of coherence between assistance, and the political and human rights aspects of the United Nations response while maintaining their separate and mutually reinforcing nature. The Council notes the number of tools at the disposal of the United Nations for relief management and emphasizes that these should not be developed in isolation. The Council in particular encourages enhanced inter-linkages between the consolidated appeal process and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and requests the Emergency Relief Coordinator, in collaboration with the United Nations development organizations, to intensify efforts in this respect at the country as well as the headquarters level. To this end, the Council underlines that cooperation between all actors, including United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations, should be strengthened.

"20. With respect to the financial mechanisms available for transitional activities, the Council recognizes that, while some Governments and intergovernmental funding bodies have introduced flexibility into their funding mechanisms, considerable rigidities and difficulties still exist. The Council calls on donor countries to ensure that their funding systems facilitate early, integrated approaches for recovery. Furthermore, the Council calls on donor countries to ensure continuity in and adequacy of funding from humanitarian assistance through transition activities to development cooperation, and reaffirms that contributions made for humanitarian assistance should not be to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development.

"21. The Council recognizes that demobilization, reintegration and rehabilitation are some of the major areas where gaps between relief and development occur. The Council also stresses that demobilization, reintegration and rehabilitation should be designed and implemented taking into account a gender perspective. The Council stresses, therefore, that sustainable reintegration strategies, including comprehensive mine action programmes, wherever required, are a substantial prerequisite of stabilization in post-conflict situations. The Council urges the Secretary-General and the Emergency Relief Coordinator to ensure that priority attention is given to effective programming in this field. The Council stresses the importance of addressing the needs of returning refugees.

"22. The Council recognizes that all humanitarian emergencies have a direct and particular impact on children. The Council underlines the need to respect and ensure every child's rights as contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child[3] and calls for efforts to enhance international standards for the rights of the child. Violation of these rights often results in irreparable damage. The Council also calls for systematic, concerted and comprehensive inter-agency efforts on behalf of children, as well as adequate and sustainable resource allocation, to provide both immediate emergency assistance to, and long-term measures for children, throughout all phases of an emergency. The Council underlines the importance of recognizing and addressing the specific vulnerabilities of children and adolescents in armed conflict. Given the long-term consequences for society, the Council underlines the importance of including specific provisions for children in peace agreements and in arrangements negotiated by parties to conflicts as well as in transitions from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development. The Council particularly recognizes the importance of earliest efforts to demobilize, reintegrate and rehabilitate children who have been used in armed conflict. The Council welcomes the continued efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the question of the impact of armed conflict on children and encourages follow-up to his recommendations by all concerned parties.

"23. The Council acknowledges the specific needs of internally displaced persons in the transition from conflict to peace. The Council calls on all States to apply internationally recognized norms with regard

to internally displaced persons. It also calls for further strengthening and coordinating of international efforts for those persons in this regard. The Council takes note of the fact that IASC is using the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.[4] The Council welcomes the efforts of the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the members of IASC.

"24. The Council recognizes that all humanitarian emergencies have gender-specific impacts. In this context, the Council recognizes that such emergencies have direct and particular impact on women. At the same time, the Council recognizes the positive role women can play in post-conflict peace-building and reconciliation. The Council stresses the need to integrate a gender perspective in the planning and implementation of activities and recommends that such a perspective be further promoted, and in this regard notes the IASC policy statement on the integration of a gender perspective in humanitarian assistance.

"25. The Council recognizes the specific vulnerabilities of older persons in humanitarian emergencies and requests the Secretary-General to include in his report to the Council at its next humanitarian segment measures taken by the United Nations to respond to the needs of older persons in humanitarian emergencies.

"26. The Council also recognizes the need to address the question of persons with disabilities in situations of humanitarian emergencies.

"27. The Council emphasizes the importance of discussion of humanitarian policies and activities in the General Assembly and in the Council. In this context, the Council takes note of document E/1999/45, the views contained therein and the holding of discussions thereon, and decides to hold further consultations on ways and means to strengthen the role of the Council by enhancing its work in the humanitarian field, and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 2000.

"28. The Council requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its next humanitarian segment on the implementation of and follow-up to these agreed conclusions."

6. After the adoption of the draft agreed conclusions, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, the Republic of Korea, Japan and the Russian Federation and the observers for Guyana (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) and Finland (on behalf of the European Union).

7. Also at the 37th meeting, a statement was also made by the Director, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Geneva.

*Notes*

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chap. VII, para. 5, agreed conclusions 1998/1.

[2] PCNICC/1999/INF/3.

[3] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

[4] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

# Chapter VII
# General segment

## A. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

1. At its substantive session, the Council held a discussion on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (agenda item 6) at its 35th and 44th to 46th meetings, on 22 and 28 to 30 July 1999. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.35 and 44-46). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on a critical review of the development of indicators in the context of conference follow-up (E/1999/11);

(b) Report of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" on its second session and its resumed second session (E/1999/60 and Add.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on possible modalities of a review by the Economic and Social Council in 2000 of progress within the United Nations system in promoting an integrated and coordinated implementation of major United Nations conferences and summits (E/1999/63);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, serving as a progress report on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/44 on the integrated and coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (E/1999/65);

(e) Summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the informal meeting of the Council on basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits (New York, 10 and 11 May 1999) (E/1999/77);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee on World Food Security on progress in the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action (E/1999/81);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of agreed conclusions 1998/2 of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (E/1999/83);

(h) Letter dated 17 June 1999 from the Acting Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" to the President of the Economic and Social Council (E/1999/86);

(i) Statement submitted by the International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (E/1999/NGO/2).

### Action taken by the Council

2. Under agenda item 6, the Council adopted resolutions 1999/35, 1999/50 and 1999/55 and decisions 1999/278 and 1999/283.

#### Implementation of agreed conclusions 1998/2 of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

3. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution (E/1999/L.29) entitled "Implementation of agreed conclusions 1998/2 of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action", submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

4. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution. See Council resolution 1999/35.

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Cuba made a statement.

**Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" on its second session (E/1999/60)**

**Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"**

6. At the 45th meeting, on 29 July, the Council adopted the draft resolution entitled "Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace", recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (E/1999/60, chap. I, sect. A). See Council resolution 1999/50.

**Report of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" on its second session and provisional agenda and documentation for the third session of the preparatory committee**

7. At the 45th meeting, on 29 July, the Council adopted the draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century' on its second session and provisional agenda and documentation for the third session of the Preparatory Committee", recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (E/1999/60, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/278.

**Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits**

8. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution (E/1999/L.57) entitled "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits", submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

9. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution. See Council resolution 1999/55.

**Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits**

10. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Council, on the proposal of the President, took note of documents considered in connection with the question of integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits. See Council decision 1999/283.

## B. Coordination, programme and other questions

11. At its substantive session, the Council held a discussion on coordination, programme and other questions (agenda item 7) at its 35th, 36th, 41st and 44th to 46th meetings, on 22 and 27 to 30 July 1999. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.35, 36, 41 and 44-46). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (E/1999/103);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on tobacco or health (E/1999/114);

*Reports of coordination bodies*

(c) Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-ninth session (A/54/16);[1]

(d) Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1998 (E/1999/48);

*Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001*

(e) Relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/54/6, sect. 9-25);

(f) Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-ninth session (A/54/16);[1]

*Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS)*

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS) (E/1999/64);

(h) Statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, on the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (E/1999/NGO/5);

*International cooperation in the field of informatics*

(i) Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the field of informatics (E/1999/74);

*Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields*

(j) Letter dated 6 July 1999 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council (E/1999/110);

(k) Note by the Secretariat containing a provisional calendar of conferences and meetings for 2000 and 2001 in the economic, social and related fields (E/1999/L.18 and Add.1).

12. At the 36th meeting, on 22 July, the Council held a panel discussion on the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS) in which the following panellists participated: Executive Director of UNAIDS; Chairman of the United Nations Theme Group on HIV/AIDS (Brazil); Chairman of the United Nations Theme Group on HIV/AIDS (Haiti); Chairman of the United Nations Theme Group on HIV/AIDS (Malawi); Chairman of the United Nations Theme Group on HIV/AIDS (Russian Federation); and United Nations Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative (India).

## Action taken by the Council

13. Under agenda item 7, the Council adopted resolutions 1999/11, 1999/36 and 1999/56 to 1999/58 and decisions 1999/271, 1999/280 and 1999/284.

### Long-term strategy and programme of support for Haiti

14. At the 41st meeting, on 27 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution (E/1999/L.35) entitled "Long-term programme of support for Haiti", submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

15. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution. See Council resolution 1999/11.

16. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the observer for Haiti made a statement.

### Tobacco or health

17. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution (E/1999/L.53) entitled "Tobacco or health", submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

18. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution. See Council resolution 1999/56.

### United Nations Staff College in Turin

19. At the 36th meeting, on 22 July, the observer for Finland,[2] on behalf of the European Union, Cyprus, Estonia, Lithuania, Norway and Romania, introduced a draft resolution (E/1999/L.26) entitled "United Nations Staff College in Turin", which read as follows:

"*The Economic and Social Council*,

"*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 49/222 A of 23 December 1994,

"*Welcoming* the decision taken by the Secretary-General in January 1996 to establish in Turin, Italy, the United Nations Staff College initially as a five-year project,

"*Noting* the relevant recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in its report entitled 'Training institutions in the United Nations system: programme and activities',

"*Reaffirming* the importance of a coordinated United Nations system-wide approach to research and

training, based on an effective division of labour among the relevant institutions and bodies,

"1. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken so far by the United Nations Staff College, particularly to strengthen United Nations performance in the pursuit of peace and development and in the promotion of a common United Nations management culture and by supporting the process of change and reform in the United Nations;

"2. *Notes with appreciation* the relevant technical, logistical and administrative contribution provided by the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization;

"3. *Invites* the relevant United Nations agencies to consider providing resources for the day-to-day running of the United Nations Staff College in Turin and expanding, whenever appropriate, the utilization of the services of the College for staff development, learning and training activities, on a basis of full cost recovery;

"4. *Notes with appreciation* the voluntary funding provided so far by College donors, both within and outside the United Nations system;

"5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consult with relevant United Nations agencies and to submit to the Council, at its substantive session of 2000 a progress report on the United Nations Staff College in Turin, based on a full evaluation of the implementation and completion of the activities undertaken by the College, incorporating its corporate plan and programme of action, and including recommendations on the future status of the College after the conclusion of its pilot phase, in December 2000."

20. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), introduced a draft decision (E/1999/L.43) entitled "United Nations Staff College in Turin", submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1999/L.26.

21. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft decision. See Council decision 1999/271.

22. In the light of the adoption of draft decision E/1999/L.43, draft resolution E/1999/L.26 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

**Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with coordination, programme and other questions**

23. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Council, on the proposal of the President, took note of documents considered in connection with coordination, programme and other questions. See Council decision 1999/284.

**1. Reports of coordination bodies**

**Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-ninth session**

24. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution (E/1999/L.50) entitled "Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-ninth session", submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

25. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution. See Council resolution 1999/57.

26. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Cuba made a statement.

**2. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001**

27. No proposals were submitted under this sub-item.

**3. Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS)**

**Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)**

28. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution (E/1999/L.36) entitled "Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)", submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

29. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution. See Council resolution 1999/36.

### 4. International cooperation in the field of informatics

#### The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

30. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution (E/1999/L.54) entitled "The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States", submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

31. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution. See Council resolution 1999/58.

### 5. Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields

#### Calendar of conferences and meetings for 2000 and 2001 in the economic, social and related fields

32. At the 45th meeting, on 29 July, the Chief of the Central Planning and Coordination Service, Conference Services Division, Geneva, introduced and orally amended the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings for 2000 and 2001 in the economic, social and related fields (E/1999/L.18 and Add.1).

33. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings, as orally amended. See Council decision 1999/280.

## C. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B

34. At its substantive session, the Council held a discussion on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B (agenda item 8) at its 40th and 45th meetings, on 26 and 29 July 1999. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.40 and 45). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (A/54/115-E/1999/59);

(b) Progress report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions (E/1999/56);

(c) Note by the Secretariat transmitting an informal summary of the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, held on 29 April 1999 (E/1999/78);

(d) Consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/1999/101 and Corr.1);

(e) Report on the joint meetings held between the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council and the bureaux of its functional commissions (E/1999/108).

### Action taken by the Council

35. Under agenda item 8, the Council adopted resolution 1999/51 and decision 1999/279.

#### Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions

36. At the 45th meeting, on 29 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution (E/1999/L.46) entitled "Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions", submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

37. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution. See Council resolution 1999/51.

#### Note by the Secretariat on the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions

38. At the 45th meeting, on 29 July, the Council, on the proposal of the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), took note of the note by the Secretariat transmitting an informal summary of the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions. See Council decision 1999/279.

## D. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

39. At its substantive session, the Council considered the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (agenda item 9) at its 39th, 43rd and 45th meetings, on 26, 28 and 29 July 1999. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.39, 43 and 45). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/54/119);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people (A/54/134-E/1999/85);

(c) Information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (E/1999/69).

### Action taken by the Council

40. Under agenda item 9, the Council adopted resolution 1999/52.

#### Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

41. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of China, Cuba, India, Iraq,[2] Namibia,[2] Papua New Guinea,[2] the Syrian Arab Republic and Viet Nam, introduced a draft resolution (E/1999/L.34) entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations". Subsequently, Algeria, Angola,[2] the Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire[2] and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

42. At the 45th meeting, on 29 July, the Council adopted the draft resolution by a roll-call vote of 29 to none, with 17 abstentions. See Council resolution 1999/52. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Djibouti, El Salvador, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia.

*Against:*

None.

*Abstaining:*

Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

43. After the draft resolution was adopted, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote.

## E. Regional cooperation

44. At its substantive session, the Council held a discussion on regional cooperation (agenda item 10) at its 33rd, 34th and 44th meetings, on 21 and 28 July 1999. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.33, 34 and 44). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 17 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Yerevan Declaration on Decentralization, adopted at the international conference on the theme "Decentralization in Eastern and Central Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS): conditions of success", held from 26 to 28 April 1999, at Yerevan, Armenia (A/54/97-E/1999/52);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields (E/1999/14);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields: cooperation with other regional bodies (E/1999/14/Add.1);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields: trends and activities (E/1999/14/Add.2);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields: matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention (E/1999/14/Add.3);

(f) Summary of the economic survey of Europe, 1998 (E/1999/15);

(g) Summary of the economic and social situation in Africa, 1998 (E/1999/16);

(h) Summary of the economic and social survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1999 (E/1999/17);

(i) Summary of the economic survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1998 (E/1999/18);

(j) Summary of the survey of economic and social developments in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region, 1998-1999 (E/1999/19);

(k) Note by the Secretary-General on the project for a Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar (E/1999/20).

## Action taken by the Council

45. Under item 10, the Council adopted resolutions 1999/37 to 1999/45 and decisions 1999/272 and 1999/273.

### Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

46. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the representative of Morocco, also on behalf of France and Spain, introduced a draft resolution (E/1999/L.27) entitled "Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar".

47. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution. See Council resolution 1999/37.

### Recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (E/1999/14/Add.3)

### Change of the name of Macau to Macau, China in the terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

48. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted a draft resolution entitled "Change of the name of Macau to Macau, China in the terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific", recommended by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (E/1999/14/Add.3, chap. I, sect. B). See Council resolution 1999/38.

### Programme of work and priorities of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2000-2001

49. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), introduced draft resolution I entitled "Programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2000-2001", recommended by the Economic Commission for Africa (E/1999/14/Add.3, chap. I, sect. C).

50. At the same meeting, the Vice-President of the Council, on the basis of informal consultations, orally amended the draft resolution.

51. Also at the 44th meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution, as orally amended. See Council resolution 1999/39.

### Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

52. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), introduced draft resolution II entitled "Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries", recommended by the Economic Commission for Africa (E/1999/14/Add.3, chap. I, sect. C).

53. At the same meeting, the Vice-President of the Council, on the basis of informal consultations, orally amended the draft resolution.

54. Also at the 44th meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution, as orally amended. See Council resolution 1999/40.

### Frequency of sessions of the sectoral committees of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

55. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft resolution I, entitled "Frequency of sessions of the sectoral committees of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia", recommended by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (E/1999/14/Add.3, chap. I, sect. D). See Council resolution 1999/41.

**Redesignation of the Technical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia**

56. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft resolution II, entitled "Redesignation of the Technical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia", recommended by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (E/1999/14/Add.3, chap. I, sect. D). See Council resolution 1999/42.

**Changes introduced in the programme of work and priorities of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the biennium 1998-1999**

57. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft resolution III, entitled "Changes introduced in the programme of work and priorities of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the biennium 1998-1999", recommended by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (E/1999/14/Add.3, chap. I, sect. D). See Council resolution 1999/43.

**Relocation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to its permanent headquarters at Beirut**

58. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft resolution IV, entitled "Relocation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to its permanent headquarters at Beirut", recommended by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (E/1999/14/Add.3, chap. I, sect. D). See Council resolution 1999/44.

**Beirut Declaration**

59. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), introduced draft resolution V entitled "Adoption of the Beirut Declaration", recommended by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (E/1999/14/Add.3, chap. I, sect. D).

60. At the same meeting, the Vice-President of the Council, on the basis of informal consultations, orally amended the draft resolution.

61. Also at the 44th meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution, as orally amended. See Council resolution 1999/45.

**Meeting of Officials on Land Administration**

62. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted a draft decision entitled "Meeting of Officials on Land Administration", recommended by the Economic Commission for Europe (E/1999/14/Add.3, chap. I, sect. A). See Council decision 1999/272.

**Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the question of regional cooperation**

63. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Council, on the proposal of the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), took note of documents considered in connection with the question of regional cooperation. See Council decision 1999/273.

## F. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

64. At its substantive session, the Council considered the question of the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (agenda item 11) at its 39th, 40th, 43rd and 45th meetings, on 26, 28 and 29 July 1999. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.39, 40, 43 and 45). The Council had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/54/152-E/1999/92).

### Action taken by the Council

65. Under agenda item 11, the Council adopted resolution 1999/53.

**Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan**

66. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the representative of Algeria, also on behalf of Cuba, Egypt,[2] Jordan,[2] Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Palestine,[3] introduced a draft resolution (E/1999/L.32) entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan". Subsequently, the Comoros and Djibouti joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

67. At the 45th meeting, on 29 July, the Council adopted the draft resolution by a roll-call vote of 44 to 1, with 3 abstentions. See Council resolution 1999/53. The voting was as follows:

*In favour*:

Algeria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Viet Nam.

*Against*:

United States of America.

*Abstaining*:

El Salvador, Honduras, Zambia.

68. Before the draft resolution was adopted, the observers for Israel and Palestine made statements. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America (in explanation of vote) and Algeria and the observer for Finland (on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries, as well as Iceland and Norway).

## G. Non-governmental organizations

69. At its substantive session, the Council held a discussion on non-governmental organizations (agenda item 12) at its 44th and 46th meetings, on 28 and 30 July 1999. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.44 and 46). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 1999 session (E/1999/109);

(b) Statement submitted by the International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (E/1999/NGO/2).

### Action taken by the Council

70. Under agenda item 12, the Council adopted resolution 1999/34 and decisions 1999/266 to 1999/269.

**Recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 1999 session (E/1999/109)**

**Strengthening the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat**

71. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the United Nations Secretariat", recommended by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1999/109, chap. I). See Council resolution 1999/34.

**Applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations**

72. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft decision I, entitled "Applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations", recommended by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1999/109, chap. I). See Council decision 1999/266.

**Consideration of the status of Christian Solidarity International**

73. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Council had before it draft decision II, entitled "Withdrawal of consultative status of Christian Solidarity International", recommended by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1999/109, chap. I).

74. At the same meeting, the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), introduced a draft

decision entitled "Consideration of the status of Christian Solidarity International", submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft decision II.

75. Also at the 46th meeting, the Council adopted the draft decision entitled "Consideration of the status of Christian Solidarity International". See Council decision 1999/268.

76. After the adoption of the draft decision, statements were made by the representatives of Chile, Canada (also on behalf of New Zealand, Norway and the United States of America), Algeria, Lesotho and the observers for the Sudan and Finland (on behalf of the European Union).

#### Resumed 1999 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

77. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Council had before it draft decision III, entitled "Resumed 1999 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations", recommended by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1999/109, chap. I), and the programme budget implications thereof (E/1999/109, annex I).

78. At the same meeting, the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), orally amended the draft decision on the basis of informal consultations.

79. Also at the 44th meeting, the Council adopted the draft decision, as orally amended. See Council decision 1999/267.

#### Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 1999 session

80. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Council, on the proposal of the President, took note of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 1999 session. See Council decision 1999/269.

## H. Economic and environmental questions

81. At its substantive session, the Council considered economic and environmental questions (agenda item 13) at its 38th, 39th and 46th meetings, on 23, 26 and 30 July 1999. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.38, 39 and 46). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 21 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting information from the Russian Federation State Committee on Environmental Protection on possible environmental consequences of the military aggression by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against Yugoslavia (E/1999/46);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (E/1999/51);

(c) Letter dated 27 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting information from the Russian Federation State Committee on Environmental Protection regarding the negative effects on the environment of the military aggression by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (E/1999/62);

(d) Report of the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (E/CONF.91/3 and Corr.1).

### Action taken by the Council

82. Under agenda item 13, the Council adopted resolution 1999/59 and decision 1999/286.

#### Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

83. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Council had before it a draft resolution (E/1999/L.52) entitled "Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions", submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibosono (Indonesia), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1999/L.37, submitted by the Russian Federation.

84. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution. See Council resolution 1999/59.

85. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/1999/L.52, draft resolution E/1999/L.37 was withdrawn by its sponsor.

#### Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with economic and environmental questions

86. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Council, on the proposal of the President, took note of documents considered in connection with economic and environmental questions. See Council decision 1999/286.

### 1. Sustainable development

87. The Council considered the question of sustainable development (agenda item 13 (a)) at its 38th, 39th and 46th meetings, on 23, 26 and 30 July. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.38, 39 and 46). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken in the United Nations system to accelerate progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (A/54/131-E/1999/75);

(b) Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its seventh session (E/1999/29);[4]

(c) Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its first session (E/1999/33);[5]

(d) Letter dated 4 June 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a letter from the Federal Minister for Development, Environment and Sciences to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme relative to the consequences of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization aggression on the environment in Yugoslavia (E/1999/71-S/1999/659).

#### Action taken by the Council

88. Under agenda item 13 (a), the Council adopted resolutions 1999/7 and 1999/60 and decisions 1999/222 and 1999/285.

##### Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its seventh session (E/1999/29)

##### Expansion of the United Nations guidelines on consumer protection to include sustainable consumption

89. At the 39th meeting, on 26 July, the Council adopted draft resolution I, entitled "Expansion of the United Nations guidelines on consumer protection to include sustainable consumption", recommended by the Commission on Sustainable Development (E/1999/29, chap. I, sect. A). See Council resolution 1999/7.

##### Preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, on energy issues

90. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Council adopted draft resolution II, entitled "Preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the issue of energy", recommended by the Commission on Sustainable Development (E/1999/29, chap. I, sect. A). See Council resolution 1999/60.

##### Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its seventh session and provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Commission

91. At the 39th meeting, on 26 July, the Council adopted the draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its seventh session and provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Commission", recommended by the Commission on Sustainable Development (E/1999/29, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/222.

##### Ad Hoc Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development

92. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), introduced a draft decision (E/1999/L.56) entitled "Ad Hoc Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development", submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

93. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft decision. See Council decision 1999/285.

### 2. Science and technology for development

94. The Council considered the question of science and technology for development (agenda item 13 (b)) at its 38th, 39th, 44th and 46th meetings, on 23, 26, 28 and 30 July. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.38, 39, 44 and 46). It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fourth session (E/1999/31);[6]

(b) Statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/1999/31), submitted by the Secretary-General in

accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council (E/1999/L.49).

## Action taken by the Council

95. Under agenda item 13 (b), the Council adopted resolution 1999/61 and decisions 1999/274 and 1999/275.

### Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fourth session (E/1999/31)

#### Science and technology for development

96. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Council considered a draft resolution entitled "Science and technology for development", recommended by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/1999/31, chap. I, sect. A).

97. At the same meeting, the attention of the Council was drawn to a statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (E/1999/L.49), submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council.

98. Also at the 44th meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution. See Council resolution 1999/61.

### Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fourth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifth session of the Commission

99. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft decision I, entitled "Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fourth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifth session of the Commission", recommended by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/1999/31, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/274.

#### Gender Advisory Board

100. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft decision II, entitled "Gender Advisory Board", recommended by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/1999/31, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/275.

### 3. Statistics

101. The Council considered the question of statistics (agenda item 13 (c)) at its 38th and 39th meetings, on 23 and 26 July. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.38 and 39). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Statistical Commission on its thirtieth session (E/1999/24);[7]

(b) Letter dated 2 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, submitting the offer from the Federal Government of Germany to host the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in the year 2002 (E/1999/68).

## Action taken by the Council

102. Under agenda item 13 (c), the Council adopted draft resolutions 1999/8 and 1999/9 and draft decision 1999/223.

#### Functioning of the Statistical Commission

103. At the 39th meeting, on 26 July, the Council adopted a draft resolution entitled "Functioning of the Statistical Commission", recommended by the Commission (E/1999/24, chap. I, sect. A). See Council resolution 1999/8.

#### Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

104. At the 39th meeting, on 26 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution (E/1999/L.28) entitled "Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names", submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

105. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution. See Council resolution 1999/9.

### Report of the Statistical Commission on its thirtieth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-first session of the Commission

106. At the 39th meeting, on 26 July, the Council adopted a draft decision entitled "Report of the Statistical Commission on its thirtieth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-first session of the Statistical Commission", recommended by the Commission

(E/1999/24, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/223.

### 4. Human settlements

107. The Council considered the question of human settlements (agenda item 13 (d)) at its 38th and 39th meetings, on 23 and 26 July. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.38 and 39). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its seventeenth session (A/54/8);[8]

(b) Statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/1999/NGO/3).

## Action taken by the Council

108. No proposals were submitted under the sub-item.

### 5. Environment

109. The Council considered the question of environment (agenda item 13 (e)) at its 38th, 43rd and 44th meetings, on 23 and 28 July. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.38, 43 and 44). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its twentieth session (A/54/25);[9]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon (A/54/135-E/1999/88);

(c) Statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/1999/NGO/4).

## Action taken by the Council

110. Under agenda item 13 (e), the Council adopted resolution 1999/46.

#### International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

111. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the representative of Ecuador introduced a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon" (E/1999/L.40), submitted by Guyana (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Japan, Mexico and the United States of America.

112. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), informed the Council that, as a result of informal consultations, the draft resolution had become a Vice-President's text.

113. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution. See Council resolution 1999/46.

### 6. Women in development

114. The Council considered the question of women in development (agenda item 13 (f)) at its 39th meeting, on 26 July. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary record (E/1999/SR.39). The Council had before it the note by the Secretary-General on the executive summary of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (E/1999/44).

## Action taken by the Council

115. No proposals were submitted under the sub-item.

### 7. Transport of dangerous goods

116. The Council considered the question of the transport of dangerous goods (agenda item 13 (g)) at its 39th and 46th meetings, on 26 and 30 July. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.39 and 46). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (E/1999/43);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the reconfiguration of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (E/1999/90);

(c) Statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution II contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (E/1999/43), submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council (E/1999/L.48).

### Action taken by the Council

117. Under agenda item 13 (g), the Council adopted resolution 1999/62 and decision 1999/289.

#### Recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (E/1999/43)

#### Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

118. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Council adopted draft resolution I, entitled "Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods", recommended by the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (E/1999/43, chap. I). See Council resolution 1999/62.

#### Reconfiguration of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into a Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

119. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Council decided to defer consideration of draft resolution II, entitled "Reconfiguration of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into a Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals", recommended by the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (E/1999/43, chap. I) together with the programme budget implications thereof contained in document E/1999/L.48, until a subsequent session of the Council. See Council decision 1999/289.

### 8. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

120. The Council considered the question of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (agenda item 13 (h)) at its 39th, 45th and 46th meetings, on 26, 29 and 30 July. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.39, 45 and 46). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, 1990-2000 (A/54/132 and Add.1-E/1999/80 and Add.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the recommendations on institutional arrangements for disaster reduction activities of the United Nations system after the conclusion of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (A/54/136-E/1999/89);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, 1990-2000 (E/1999/CRP.4).

### Action taken by the Council

121. Under agenda item 13 (h), the Council adopted resolution 1999/63.

#### International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: successor arrangements

122. At the 45th meeting, on 29 July, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and also on behalf of Armenia, Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution (E/1999/L.44) entitled "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: successor arrangements".

123. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), informed the Council that as a result of informal consultations, the draft resolution had become a Vice-President's text.

124. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution. See Council resolution 1999/63.

125. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the observer for Ecuador made a statement.

### 9. Population and development

126. The Council considered the question of population and development (agenda item 13 (i)) at its 39th meeting, on 26 July. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary record (E/1999/SR.39). The Council had before it the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-second session (E/1999/25).[10]

### Action taken by the Council

127. Under agenda item 13 (i), the Council adopted resolution 1999/10 and decision 1999/224.

**Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-second session (E/1999/25)**

**Population growth, structure and distribution**

128. At the 39th meeting, on 26 July, the Council adopted a draft resolution entitled "Population growth, structure and distribution", recommended by the Commission on Population and Development (E/1999/25, chap. I, sect. A). See Council resolution 1999/10.

**Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-second session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-third session of the Commission**

129. At the 39th meeting, on 26 July, the Council adopted the draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-second session and provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Commission", recommended by the Commission on Population and Development (E/1999/25, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/224.

### 10. International cooperation in tax matters

130. The Council considered the question of international cooperation in tax matters (agenda item 13 (j)) at its 39th meeting, on 26 July. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary record (E/1999/SR.39). The Council had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (E/1999/84).

## Action taken by the Council

131. Under agenda item 13 (j), the Council adopted decision 1999/225.

**Report of the Secretary-General on the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters**

132. At the 39th meeting, on 26 July, the Council decided to defer consideration of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (E/1999/84) until a subsequent session of the Council. See Council decision 1999/225.

### 11. Energy and natural resources for development

133. The Council considered the question of energy and natural resources for development (agenda item 13 (k)) at its 39th and 44th meetings, on 26 and 28 July. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.39 and 44). The Council had before it the report of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development on its first session (E/1999/32)[11] and draft amendments to recommendations contained in the report of the Committee, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), on the basis of informal consultations (E/1999/L.42).

## Action taken by the Council

134. Under agenda item 13 (k), the Council adopted resolutions 1999/47 to 1999/49 and decisions 1999/276 and 1999/277.

**Recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development on its first session (E/1999/32)**

**Contribution to the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in providing safe water supply and sanitation for all during the 1990s**

135. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft resolution I, entitled "Contribution to the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in providing safe water supply and sanitation for all during the 1990s", recommended by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development (E/1999/32, chap. I, sect. A). See Council resolution 1999/47.

**Contribution to the preparatory process for the eighth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development: integrated planning and management of land resources and agriculture**

136. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft resolution II, entitled "Contribution to the preparatory process for the eighth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development: integrated planning and management of land resources and agriculture", recommended by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, as amended (E/1999/32, chap. I, sect. A, and E/1999/L.42). See Council resolution 1999/48.

**Report of the Secretary-General on issues related to the spatial planning of land (including minerals) and water resources**

137. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft resolution III, entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on issues related to the spatial planning of land (including minerals) and water resources", recommended by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, as amended (E/1999/32, chap. I, sect. A, and E/1999/L.42). See Council resolution 1999/49.

**Second session of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development**

138. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Council had before it a statement of conference servicing implications.

139. At the same meeting, the Council adopted draft decision I, entitled "Second session of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development", recommended by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, as amended (E/1999/32, chap. I, sect. B, and E/1999/L.42). See Council decision 1999/276.

**Report of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development on its first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the second session of the Committee**

140. At the 44th meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft decision II, entitled "Report of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development on its first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the second session of the Committee", recommended by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, as amended (E/1999/32, chap. I, sect. B, and E/1999/L.42). See Council decision 1999/277.

## I. Social and human rights questions

141. The Council considered social and human rights questions at its substantive session (agenda items 14 (a) to (h)) at its 41st to 43rd, 45th and 46th meetings, on 27 to 30 July 1999. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.41-43, 45 and 46). The Council had before it the following documents:

*Advancement of women* (agenda item 14 (a))

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the work of its twentieth session (A/54/38 (Part I));[12]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/54/123-E/1999/66);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "An evaluation of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women" (A/54/156-E/1999/102);

(d) Comments of the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "An evaluation of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women" (A/54/156/Add.1-E/1999/102/Add.1);

(e) Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-third session (E/1999/27);[13]

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (E/1999/54);

(g) Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its nineteenth session (E/1999/57);

(h) Report of the President of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (E/1999/105);

*Social development* (agenda item 14 (b))

(i) Letter dated 11 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the proposal of the Government of Senegal to host the fourth session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System (A/54/66-E/1999/6);

(j) Interim report of the Secretary-General and of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the progress towards the goal of education for all: the Year 2000 Assessment (A/54/128-E/1999/70);

(k) Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-seventh session (E/1999/26);[14]

*Crime prevention and criminal justice* (agenda item 14 (c))

(l) Report of the Secretary-General on the elimination of violence against women (A/54/69-E/1999/8);

(m) Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its eighth session (E/1999/30);[15]

(n) Statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/1999/NGO/6);

*Narcotic drugs* (agenda item 14 (d))

(o) Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-second session (E/1999/28);[16]

(p) Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1998 (E/INCB/1998/1);

*United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees* (agenda item 14 (e))

(q) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/1999/21 and Corr.1);[17]

*Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination* (agenda item 14 (f))

(r) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/1999/61);

*Human rights* (agenda item 14 (h))

(s) Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-fifth session (E/1999/23 (Parts I and II));[18]

(t) Letter dated 5 May 1999 from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the President of the Economic and Social Council, transmitting an advisory opinion requested by the Council from the International Court of Justice (E/1999/49 and Add.1);

(u) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/1999/96);

(v) Letter dated 6 July 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council at the substantive session of 1999, transmitting a statement of the Government of the Republic of Serbia (E/1999/106);

(w) Letter dated 7 July 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council at the substantive session of 1999 (E/1999/107);

(x) Letter dated 22 July 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council, transmitting a joint statement on the question of the death penalty (E/1999/113);

(y) Letter from the Chairperson of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to the President of the Economic and Social Council containing a draft decision recommended by the Committee at its twentieth session for adoption by the Council (E/1999/L.19);

(z) Statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/1999/NGO/7).

## Action taken by the Council

### Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with social and human rights questions

142. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Council, on the proposal of the President, took note of a number of reports under item 14. See Council decision 1999/288.

143. Before the draft decision was adopted, statements were made by the representative of Pakistan and the observer for Finland (on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries, as well as Iceland, Malta, and Norway); after the draft decision was adopted, the representative of Cuba made a statement.

### 1. Advancement of women

144. Under agenda item 14 (a), the Council adopted resolutions 1999/13 to 1999/17 and 1999/54 and decisions 1999/257 and 1999/258.

## Action taken by the Council

### Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-third session (E/1999/27)

### Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

145. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council approved a draft resolution entitled "Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women (E/1999/27, chap. I, sect. A) for adoption by the General Assembly. See Council resolution 1999/13.

### Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

146. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft resolution I, entitled "Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan", recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women (E/1999/27, chap. I, sect. B). See Council resolution 1999/14.

### Palestinian women

147. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council voted on draft resolution II, entitled "Palestinian women", recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women (E/1999/27, chap. I, sect. B). The draft resolution was adopted by a roll-call vote of 34 to 1, with 4 abstentions. See Council resolution 1999/15. The voting was as follows:[19]

*In favour:*

Algeria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, France, Germany, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy, Latvia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Viet Nam.

*Against:*

United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway.

148. After the draft resolution was adopted, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Norway, Canada, Japan, Djibouti and New Zealand.

### System-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 2002-2005

149. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft resolution III, entitled "System-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 2002-2005", recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women (E/1999/27, chap. I, sect. B). See Council resolution 1999/16.

### Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action

150. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft resolution IV, entitled "Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action", recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women (E/1999/27, chap. I, sect. B). See Council resolution 1999/17.

### Enabling the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to carry out its mandate

151. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft decision I, entitled "Enabling the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to carry out its mandate", recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women (E/1999/27, chap. I, sect. C). See Council decision 1999/257.

### Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-third session and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-fourth session of the Commission

152. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft decision II, entitled "Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-third session and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-fourth session of the Commission", recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women (E/1999/27, chap. I, sect. C). See Council decision 1999/258.

### Revitalization of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

153. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the observer for Guyana,[2] on behalf of the Group of 77 and China,

introduced and orally revised a draft resolution (E/1999/L.41) entitled "Revitalization of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women".

154. At the 45th meeting, on 29 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), informed the Council of the results of informal consultations held on the draft resolution, as orally revised, and presented it as a Vice-President's text.

155. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised. See Council resolution 1999/54.

156. After the draft resolution was adopted, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba and Mexico.

### 2. Social development

157. Under agenda item 14 (b), the Council adopted resolution 1999/18 and decisions 1999/259 and 1999/260.

## Action taken by the Council

#### Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-seventh session (E/1999/26)

#### Policies and programmes involving youth

158. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council had before it a proposed amendment (E/1999/L.31), submitted by the observer for Portugal,[2] to the draft resolution entitled "Policies and programmes involving youth", recommended by the Commission for Social Development (E/1999/26, chap. I, sect. A).

159. At the same meeting, the Council approved the draft resolution, as amended, for adoption by the General Assembly. See Council resolution 1999/18.

160. Before the draft resolution was adopted, the observer for Portugal made a statement; after the draft resolution was adopted, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.

#### Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-seventh session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission

161. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted the draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-seventh session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission", recommended by the Commission for Social Development (E/1999/26, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/259.

#### Confirmation of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

162. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council decided to confirm the candidates listed in Commission for Social Development decision 37/101 (E/1999/26, chap. I, sect. C) for membership in the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. See Council decision 1999/260.

### 3. Crime prevention and criminal justice

163. Under agenda item 14 (c), the Council adopted resolutions 1999/19 to 1999/28 and decisions 1999/261 to 1999/263.

## Action taken by the Council

#### Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its eighth session (E/1999/30)

#### Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

164. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council considered draft resolution I, entitled "Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders", recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/1999/30, chap. I, sect. A) for adoption by the General Assembly. The attention of the Council was drawn to the statement of programme budget implications thereof contained in annex II to the report of the Commission.

165. At the same meeting, the Council approved the draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly. See Council resolution 1999/19.

#### Draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the draft protocols thereto

166. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Council approved draft resolution II, entitled "Draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the draft protocols thereto", recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/1999/30,

chap. I, sect. A) for adoption by the General Assembly. See Council resolution 1999/20.

### Activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, as well as consideration of the need to develop an instrument on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives

167. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council approved draft resolution III, entitled "Activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, as well as consideration of the need to develop an instrument on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives", recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/1999/30, chap. I, sect. A) for adoption by the General Assembly. See Council resolution 1999/21.

### Action against corruption

168. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council approved draft resolution IV, entitled "Action against corruption", recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/1999/30, chap. I, sect. A) for adoption by the General Assembly . See Council resolution 1999/22.

### Work of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme

169. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft resolution I, entitled "Work of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme", recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/1999/30, chap. I, sect. B). See Council resolution 1999/23.

### Action to promote cooperation and the functioning of the clearing house on international projects in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

170. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft resolution II, entitled "Action to promote cooperation and the functioning of the clearing house on international projects in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice", recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/1999/30, chap. I, sect. B). See Council resolution 1999/24.

### Effective crime prevention

171. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft resolution III, entitled "Effective crime prevention", recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/1999/30, chap. I, sect. B). See Council resolution 1999/25.

### Development and implementation of mediation and restorative justice measures in criminal justice

172. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft resolution IV, entitled "Development and implementation of mediation and restorative justice measures in criminal justice", recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/1999/30, chap. I, sect. B). See Council resolution 1999/26.

### Penal reform

173. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft resolution V, entitled "Penal reform", recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/1999/30, chap. I, sect. B). See Council resolution 1999/27.

### Administration of juvenile justice

174. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft resolution VI, entitled "Administration of juvenile justice", recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/1999/30, chap. I, sect. B). See Council resolution 1999/28.

### Preliminary draft of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty first Century

175. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft decision I, entitled "Preliminary draft of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century", recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/1999/30, chap. I, sect. C). See Council decision 1999/261.

**Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its eighth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the ninth session of the Commission**

176. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft decision II, entitled "Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its eighth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the ninth session of the Commission", recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/1999/30, chap. I, sect. C). See Council decision 1999/262.

**Appointment of members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute**

177. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft decision III, entitled "Appointment of members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute", recommended by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/1999/30, chap. I, sect. C). See Council decision 1999/263.

### 4. Narcotic drugs

178. Under agenda item 14 (d), the Council adopted resolutions 1999/29 to 1999/33 and decisions 1999/264 and 1999/265.

## Action taken by the Council

**Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-second session (E/1999/28)**

**Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction**

179. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council approved a draft resolution entitled "Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction", recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/1999/28, chap. I, sect. A) for adoption by the General Assembly. See Council resolution 1999/29.

**Review of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme: strengthening the United Nations machinery for international drug control within the scope of the existing international drug control treaties and in accordance with the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations**

180. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft resolution I, entitled "Review of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme: strengthening the United Nations machinery for international drug control within the scope of the existing international drug control treaties and in accordance with the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations", recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/1999/28, chap. I, sect. B). See Council resolution 1999/30.

**Lucknow Accord on the Adoption of Uniform Measures to Control International Trade in Precursors and Other Chemicals Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances**

181. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft resolution II, entitled "Lucknow accord on the adoption of uniform measures to control international trade in precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances", recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/1999/28, chap. I, sect. B). See Council resolution 1999/31.

**International regulation and control of trade in poppy seed**

182. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft resolution III, entitled "International regulation and control of trade in poppy seed", recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/1999/28, chap. I, sect. B). See Council resolution 1999/32.

**Demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs**

183. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft resolution IV, entitled "Demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs", recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/1999/28, chap. I, sect. B). See Council resolution 1999/33.

**Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-second session and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-third session of the Commission**

184. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft decision I, entitled "Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-second session and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-third session of the Commission", recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/1999/28, chap. I, sect. C). See Council decision 1999/264.

**Report of the International Narcotics Control Board**

185. At the 43rd meeting, on 28 July, the Council adopted draft decision II, entitled "Report of the International Narcotics Control Board", recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/1999/28, chap. I, sect. C). See Council decision 1999/265.

**5. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

186. No proposals were submitted under this sub-item.

**6. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination**

187. No proposals were submitted under this sub-item.

**7. Programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People**

188. No proposals were submitted under this sub-item.

**8. Human rights**

189. Under agenda item 14 (h), the Council adopted resolutions 1999/12 and 1999/64 and decisions 1999/226 to 1999/256 and 1999/287.

## Action taken by the Council

**Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-fifth session (E/1999/23)**

190. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the attention of the Council was drawn to annex IV to the report of the Commission on Human Rights, which contained a statement relating to administrative and programme budget implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission at its fifty-fifth session.

**Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**

191. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council had before it a letter dated 20 July 1999 from the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights to the President of the Council (E/1999/L.30), which contained a proposed amendment to the draft resolution entitled "Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. A).

192. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution, as amended. See Council resolution 1999/12.

**Situation of human rights in Afghanistan**

193. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 1, entitled "Situation of human rights in Afghanistan", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/226.

**Situation of human rights in Burundi**

194. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 2, entitled "Situation of human rights in Burundi", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council resolution 1999/227.

**Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran**

195. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 3, entitled "Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/228.

196. Before the draft decision was adopted, statements were made by the representative of Pakistan and the observer for Finland.

**Situation of human rights in Iraq**

197. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council voted on draft decision 4, entitled "Situation of human rights in Iraq", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). The draft decision was adopted by a roll-call vote of 29 to none, with 17

abstentions. See Council decision 1999/229. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, France, Germany, Honduras, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Mauritius, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Against:*

None.

*Abstaining:*

Algeria, Belarus, Cape Verde, China, Comoros, Cuba, Djibouti, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Viet Nam.

198. Before the draft decision was adopted, the observer for Iraq made a statement; after the draft decision was adopted, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, Algeria and the Russian Federation.

### Situation of human rights in the Sudan

199. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 5, entitled "Situation of human rights in the Sudan", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/230.

### Situation of human rights in Myanmar

200. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 6, entitled "Situation of human rights in Myanmar", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/231.

### Situation of human rights in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

201. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 7, entitled "Situation of human rights in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/232.

202. Before the draft decision was adopted, the representative of the Russian Federation made a statement; after the draft decision was adopted, the representative of India made a statement.

### Situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea and assistance in the field of human rights

203. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 8, entitled "Situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea and assistance in the field of human rights", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/233.

### Situation of human rights in Rwanda

204. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 9, entitled "Situation of human rights in Rwanda", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/234.

### Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems that the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights

205. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 10, entitled "Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/235.

### Human rights and extreme poverty

206. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 11, entitled "Human rights and extreme poverty", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/236.

**Question of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment**

207. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 12, entitled "Question of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/237.

**Right to freedom of opinion and expression**

208. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 13, entitled "Right to freedom of opinion and expression", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/238.

**Human rights of migrants**

209. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 14, entitled "Human rights of migrants", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/239.

**Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994**

210. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 15, entitled "Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/240.

**Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People**

211. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 16, entitled "Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/241.

**A permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system**

212. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 17, entitled "A permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/242.

**Strengthening of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

213. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 18, entitled "Strengthening of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/243.

**Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

214. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 19, entitled "Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/244.

**National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights**

215. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 20, entitled "National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/245.

**Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights**

216. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 21, entitled "Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/246.

### Situation of human rights in Cambodia

217. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 22, entitled "Situation of human rights in Cambodia", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/247.

### Situation of human rights in Haiti

218. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 23, entitled "Situation of human rights in Haiti", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/248.

### Rights of the child

219. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 24, entitled "Rights of the child", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/249.

### Defamation of religions

220. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 25, entitled 'Defamation of religions", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/250.

### Effects of structural adjustment policies on the full enjoyment of human rights

221. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council voted on draft decision 26, entitled "Effects of structural adjustment policies on the full enjoyment of human rights", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). The draft decision was adopted by a roll-call vote of 25 to 17, with 4 abstentions. See Council decision 1999/251. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Algeria, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Djibouti, El Salvador, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Viet Nam.

*Against:*

Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Belarus, Cape Verde, Russian Federation, Venezuela.

### Systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during armed conflicts, including internal armed conflict

222. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 27, entitled "Systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during armed conflicts, including internal armed conflict", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/252.

### The concept and practice of affirmative action

223. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 28, entitled "The concept and practice of affirmative action", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/253.

### Dates of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights

224. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 29, entitled "Dates of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/254.

### Organization of the work of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights

225. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 30, entitled "Organization of the work of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/255.

### Rationalization of the work of the Commission on Human Rights

226. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the Council adopted draft decision 31, entitled "Rationalization of the work of the Commission on Human Rights", recommended by the Commission on Human Rights (E/1999/23, chap. I, sect. B). See Council decision 1999/256.

227. After the adoption of the recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Human Rights, the representative of Cuba made a statement.

### Applicability of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations in the case of Dato' Param Cumaraswamy as Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the independence of judges and lawyers

228. At the 45th meeting, on 29 July, the observer for Finland,[2] on behalf of the European Union and Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Malta and Norway, introduced and orally revised a draft resolution (E/1999/L.45) entitled "Applicability of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations in the case of Dato' Param Cumaraswamy as Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the independence of judges and lawyers".

229. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), reported on the outcome of informal consultations held on the draft resolution.

230. At the same meeting, the observer for Finland, on behalf of the sponsors, further orally revised the draft resolution.

231. Canada joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as further orally revised.

232. Also at the 46th meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution, as further orally revised. See Council resolution 1999/64.

233. Before the draft resolution was adopted, the observer for Malaysia made a statement; after the draft resolution was adopted, the representative of Cuba made a statement.

### Additional extraordinary sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

234. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Council had before it a letter from the Chairperson of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1999/L.19) which contained a draft decision entitled "Additional regular session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights", recommended by the Committee at its twentieth session for adoption by the Council. The draft decision read as follows:

> "The Economic and Social Council, concerned that existing meeting arrangements for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights no longer permit it to fully discharge its responsibilities under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Council resolution 1985/17 in an efficient and timely manner, and noting that the effectiveness and profile of the work of the Committee will be further enhanced by holding one of its annual sessions in New York on a regular basis, approves the holding of one additional three-week session of the Committee, as well as a pre-sessional working group of one week's duration, in New York, beginning in 2000."

235. A statement of the programme budget implications of the draft decision, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, was circulated in document E/1999/L.22.

236. At the same meeting, the Council had before it an amended text of the draft decision (E/1999/L.47), which had been proposed by the observer for Finland, on behalf of the European Union.

237. A statement of programme budget implications of the amended draft decision, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, was circulated in document E/1999/L.55.

238. Also at the 46th meeting, the Council adopted the draft decision, as amended. See Council decision 1999/287.

239. After the draft decision was adopted, statements were made by the representative of the United States of America and the observer for Finland (on behalf of the European Union).

### Request to the Commission on Human Rights to cease consideration of the question "Human rights in Cuba"

240. At the 42nd meeting, on 27 July, the representative of Cuba introduced a draft decision (E/1999/L.33) entitled "Request to the Commission on Human Rights to cease consideration of the question 'Human rights in Cuba'", which read as follows:

> "The Economic and Social Council, noting the intense debate and polarization caused by Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/8 entitled 'Human rights in Cuba', included in the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-fifth session, requests the Commission on Human Rights

to cease consideration of the question 'Human rights in Cuba'."

241. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba withdrew the draft decision.

*Notes*

[1] To be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/54/16).

[2] In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[3] In accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/250.

[4] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1959, Supplement No. 9.*

[5] Ibid., *Supplement No. 13.*

[6] Ibid., *Supplement No. 11.*

[7] Ibid., *Supplement No. 4.*

[8] To be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 8.*

[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25.*

[10] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 5.*

[11] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12.*

[12] To be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38.*

[13] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 7.*

[14] Ibid., *Supplement No. 6.*

[15] Ibid., *Supplement No. 10.*

[16] Ibid., *Supplement No. 8.*

[17] To be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 12.*

[18] To be issued as *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 3.*

[19] The delegations of India, Oman and Sri Lanka subsequently stated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

# Chapter VIII
## Elections, appointments, nominations and confirmations

1. The Council considered the question of elections, appointments, nominations and confirmations at its organizational and resumed organizational sessions (agenda item 8) and its substantive session (agenda item 1). The question was considered at the 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, 10th and 46th meetings, on 5 February, 25 March, 6 May, 23 June and 30 July 1999. An account of the proceedings is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1999/SR.4, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 46). The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Annotated provisional agenda for the organizational session for 1999 (E/1999/2 and Add.1);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the election of one member of the International Narcotics Control Board from among the candidates nominated by Governments to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Alfonso Gómez Méndez (Colombia), for a term ending on 1 March 2002, under the provisions of article 9, paragraph 1 (b), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol (E/1999/L.1 and Add.5);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on elections and nominations postponed from previous sessions (E/1999/L.1/Add.1);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General on the confirmation of a representative on the Statistical Commission (E/1999/L.1/Add.2);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General on elections to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development (E/1999/L.1/Add.3, Add.4 and Add.6);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General on the election of one member of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Paul M. Kodzwa (Zimbabwe) (E/1999/L.1/Add.7);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General on the election of members of the functional commissions of the Council (E/1999/L.1/Add.8);

(h) Note by the Secretary-General on the election of 19 members of the Commission on Human Settlements (E/1999/L.1/Add.9);

(i) Note by the Secretary-General on the election of 21 members of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (E/1999/L.1/Add.10);

(j) Note by the Secretary-General on the election of five members of the International Narcotics Control Board under the provisions of article 9, paragraph 1 (b), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, from among candidates nominated by Governments (E/1999/L.1/Add.11, Add.17, Add.19 and Add.20);

(k) Note by the Secretary-General on the election of one member of the International Narcotics Control Board under the provisions of article 9, paragraph 1 (a), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, from among candidates nominated by the World Health Organization (E/1999/L.1/Add.12);

(l) Note by the Secretary-General on the election of 11 members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (E/1999/L.1/Add.13);

(m) Note by the Secretary-General on the election of 11 members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund (E/1999/L.1/Add.14);

(n) Note by the Secretary-General on the election of five members of the Programme Coordination Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS) (E/1999/L.1/Add.15);

(o) Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of 20 members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (E/1999/L.1/Add.16);

(p) Note by the Secretary-General on the appointment of three members of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (E/1999/L.1/Add.18).

### Action taken by the Council

2. Under the item on elections, the Council adopted decisions 1999/210 A, B, C, D and E.

# Chapter IX
# Organizational matters

1. The Council held its organizational session for 1999 at United Nations Headquarters on 20 January and 2, 3 and 5 February 1999 (1st to 4th meetings), a resumed organizational session on 25 March, 6 and 7 May and 23 June (5th and 7th to 10th meetings) and a special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions on 29 April (6th meeting). The Council declared open its substantive session for 1999 on 23 June (11th meeting) at United Nations Headquarters and continued the session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 5 to 30 July (12th to 46th meetings). An account of the proceedings is contained in the summary records (E/1999/SR.1-46).

## A. Action taken by the Council

2. At its organizational session for 1999, the Council adopted one resolution and nine decisions concerning organizational matters. See Council resolution 1999/2 and decisions 1999/201 to 1999/209.

3. At its resumed organizational session for 1999, the Council adopted two resolutions and eight decisions concerning organizational matters. See Council resolutions 1999/3 and 1999/4 and decisions 1999/211 to 1999/218.

4. At its substantive session of 1999, the Council adopted three decisions concerning organizational matters. See Council decisions 1999/218, 1999/281 and 1999/282.

## B. Proceedings

5. The 1st meeting, on 20 January, was opened by the President of the Economic and Social Council for 1998, Juan Somavia (Chile). Upon election, the President of the Council for 1999, Paolo Fulci (Italy), made a statement.

### 1. Bureau of the Council

6. Pursuant to paragraph 2 (k) of its resolution 1988/77, the Council met on 20 January for the purpose of electing its Bureau.

7. At the 1st meeting, the Council elected, by acclamation, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), Percy Metsing Mangoaela (Lesotho) and Alfonso Valdivieso (Colombia) Vice-Presidents of the Council for 1999.

8. At the 2nd meeting, on 2 February, the Council elected, by acclamation, Alyaksandr Sychov (Belarus) Vice-President of the Council for 1999.

### 2. Agenda of the organizational session for 1999

9. The Council considered the agenda of its organizational session at the 1st meeting, on 20 January. It had before it the annotated provisional agenda (E/1999/2 and Add.1).

10. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the agenda of the organizational session (see annex I to the present report).

### 3. Basic programme of work of the Council for 2000

11. The Council considered its basic programme of work for 2000 at the 2nd meeting, on 2 February. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General containing the basic programme of work for 1999 and 2000 (E/1999/1) and the draft proposals thereon submitted by the President and members of the Bureau (E/1999/L.4).

12. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft decisions contained in document E/1999/L.4. See Council decisions 1999/201 to 1999/205.

### 4. Participation of non-governmental organizations accredited to the World Summit for Social Development in the work of the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-seventh session

13. At the 2nd meeting, on 2 February, the representative of Spain introduced a draft decision entitled "Participation of non-governmental organizations accredited to the World Summit for Social Development in the work of the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-seventh session" (E/1999/L.3). At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft decision. See Council decision 1999/206.

### 5. Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

14. At the 2nd meeting, on 2 February, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire introduced a draft decision entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees" (E/1998/L.53). At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft decision. See Council decision 1999/207.

15. At the 45th meeting, on 29 July, the representative of Chile, also on behalf of the Republic of Korea, introduced a draft decision entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (E/1999/L.51). At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Council adopted the draft decision. See Council decision 1999/282.

### 6. Theme and programme of work of the humanitarian affairs segment of the substantive session of 1999 of the Economic and Social Council

16. At the 4th meeting, on 5 February, the representative of Indonesia introduced a draft decision entitled "Theme of the humanitarian affairs segment" (E/1999/L.7). At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft decision. See Council decision 1999/208.

17. At the 9th meeting, on 7 May, the Council had before it a draft decision entitled "Programme of work for the humanitarian affairs segment of the substantive session of 1999 of the Economic and Social Council" (E/1999/L.14/Rev.1), submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Alyaksandr Sychov (Belarus). At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft decision. See Council decision 1999/214.

### 7. Issue of the review of the distribution of seats in the Executive Board of the World Food Programme

18. At the 4th meeting, on 5 February, the Council decided to continue consideration, at its resumed organizational session for 1999, of the issue of the review of the distribution of seats in the Executive Board of the World Food Programme and to postpone action on the draft resolution entitled "Revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme" (E/1998/L.51) to its resumed organizational session for 1999. See Council decision 1999/209.

### 8. Work programme for the Committee for Development Policy

19. At the 4th meeting, on 5 February, the Council had before it a draft resolution entitled "Work programme for the Committee for Development Policy" (E/1999/L.8), submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia).

20. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution. See Council resolution 1999/2.

### 9. Revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme

21. At the 5th meeting, on 25 March, the Council had before it a draft resolution entitled "Revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme" (E/1999/L.12), submitted by the President of the Council, Paolo Fulci (Italy), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1998/L.51.

22. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution. See Council resolution 1999/3.

### 10. Working arrangements for the substantive session of 1999 of the Economic and Social Council

23. At the 5th meeting, on 25 March, the Council had before it a draft decision entitled "Working arrangements for the substantive session of 1999 of the Economic and Social Council" (E/1999/L.10), submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Alyaksandr Sychov (Belarus).

24. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft decision. See Council decision 1999/211.

### 11. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations reporting to the Economic and Social Council on the follow-up to the World Food Summit

25. At the 5th meeting, on 25 March, the Council had before it a draft decision entitled "Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: reporting to the Economic and Social Council on the follow-up to the World Food Summit" (E/1999/L.11), submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Alyaksandr Sychov (Belarus).

26. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft decision. See Council decision 1999/212.

### 12. Additional meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women

27. At the 5th meeting, on 25 March, the Council considered a draft decision entitled "Additional meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women" (E/1999/L.13), submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Alyaksandr Sychov (Belarus), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft decision III, entitled "Extraordinary meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women", recommended

by the Commission on the Status of Women (E/1999/27, chap. I, sect. C), and reproduced in document E/1999/L.9.

28. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft decision. See Council decision 1999/213.

**Recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 1998 session (E/1999/10 and Corr.1)**

**13. Applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations**

29. At the 9th meeting, on 7 May, the Council adopted draft decision I, entitled "Applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations" (E/1999/10 and Corr.1, chap. I), recommended by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. See Council decision 1999/215.

**14. Applications from organizations of indigenous people not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council for participation in the work of the open-ended inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people**

30. At the 9th meeting, on 7 May, the Council adopted draft decision II, entitled "Applications from organizations of indigenous people not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council for participation in the work of the open-ended inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft decision on the rights of indigenous people" (E/1999/10 and Corr.1, chap. I), recommended by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. See Council decision 1999/216.

**15. Approval of an application for membership in the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods**

31. At the 7th meeting, on 6 May, the Council had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the question of the membership of the Czech Republic in the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (E/1999/5). At the same meeting, the Council endorsed the decision of the Secretary-General to approve the application of the Czech Republic for full membership in the Committee. See Council decision 1999/217.

**16. Long-term programme of support for Haiti**

32. At the 9th meeting, on 7 May, the Council had before it a draft resolution entitled "Long-term programme of support for Haiti" (E/1999/L.15), submitted by the President of the Council.

33. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution, as corrected by the President of the Council. See Council resolution 1999/4.

**17. Request for an additional meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"**

34. At the 10th meeting, on 23 June, the Council had before it a letter dated 17 June 1999 from the Acting Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" to the President of the Council (E/1999/86) containing a request for the Commission acting as the preparatory committee to hold an additional one-day meeting during the week of 28 June 1999. The Council approved the request. See Council decision 1999/218.

**18. Agenda of the substantive session of 1999**

35. At the 11th meeting, on 23 June, the Council considered the agenda and organization of work of its substantive session of 1999. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Annotated provisional agenda (E/1999/100 and Add.1);

(b) Proposed programme of work for the substantive session of 1999 (E/1999/L.16).

36. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the agenda of the substantive session of 1999 (see annex I) and approved the programme of work of the session, as orally revised (see E/1999/SR.11).

**19. Requests by non-governmental organizations for hearings**

37. At the 16th meeting, on 7 July, the Council, on the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1999/95 and Add.1), approved the requests made by non-governmental organizations to be heard by the Council at its substantive session of 1999.

**20. Themes for the substantive session of 2000 of the Economic and Social Council**

38. At the 46th meeting, on 30 July, the Council had before it a draft decision entitled "Themes for the substantive session of 2000 of the Economic and Social Council" (E/1999/L.58), submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia).

39. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft decision. See Council decision 1999/281.

# Annex I

## Agendas of the organizational and resumed organizational sessions for 1999 and the substantive session of 1999

### Agenda of the organizational and resumed organizational sessions for 1999

**Adopted by the Council at its 1st meeting, on 20 January 1999**

1. Election of the Bureau.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Basic programme of work of the Council.
4. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B.
5. Review of the distribution of seats in the Executive Board of the World Food Programme.
6. Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
7. Work programme for the Committee for Development Policy.
8. Elections, nominations and confirmations.

### Agenda of the substantive session of 1999

**Adopted by the Council at its 11th meeting, on 23 June 1999**

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

**High-level segment**

2. The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women.

**Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment**

3. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation:
   (a) Poverty eradication and capacity-building;
   (b) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly;
   (c) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme;
   (d) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

**Coordination segment**

4. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following theme: Development of Africa: implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development.

**Humanitarian affairs segment**

5. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance.

**General segment**

6. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits.

7. Coordination, programme and other questions:

   (a) Reports of coordination bodies;

   (b) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001;

   (c) Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS);

   (d) International cooperation in the field of informatics;

   (e) Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields.

8. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B.

9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

10. Regional cooperation.

11. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan.

12. Non-governmental organizations.

13. Economic and environmental questions:

   (a) Sustainable development;

   (b) Science and technology for development;

   (c) Statistics;

   (d) Human settlements;

   (e) Environment;

   (f) Women in development;

   (g) Transport of dangerous goods;

   (h) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

   (i) Population and development;

   (j) International cooperation in tax matters;

   (k) Energy and natural resources for development.

14. Social and human rights questions:

(a) Advancement of women;

(b) Social development;

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice;

(d) Narcotic drugs;

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

(f) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

(g) Programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People;

(h) Human rights.

# Annex II

## Composition of the Council and its subsidiary and related bodies

### Economic and Social Council

**(54 members; three-year term)**

| *Membership in 1999* | *Membership in 2000* | *Term expires on 31 December* |
|---|---|---|
| Algeria | Algeria | 2000 |
| Belarus | Angola | 2002 |
| Belgium | Austria | 2002 |
| Bolivia | Bahrain | 2002 |
| Brazil | Belarus | 2000 |
| Bulgaria | Belgium | 2000 |
| Canada | Benin | 2002 |
| Cape Verde | Bolivia | 2001 |
| Chile | Brazil | 2000 |
| China | Bulgaria | 2001 |
| Colombia | Burkina Faso | 2002 |
| Comoros | Cameroon | 2002 |
| Cuba | Canada | 2001 |
| Czech Republic | China | 2001 |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | Colombia | 2000 |
| Denmark | Comoros | 2000 |
| Djibouti | Costa Rica | 2002 |
| El Salvador | Croatia | 2002 |
| France | Cuba | 2002 |
| Gambia | Czech Republic | 2001 |
| Germany | Democratic Republic of the Congo | 2001 |
| Guinea-Bissau | Denmark | 2001 |
| Honduras | Fiji | 2002 |
| Iceland | France | 2002 |
| India | Germany | 2002 |
| Indonesia | Greece | 2002 |
| Italy | Guinea-Bissau | 2001 |
| Japan | Honduras | 2001 |
| Latvia | India | 2000 |
| Lesotho | Indonesia | 2001 |
| Mauritius | Italy | 2000 |
| Mexico | Japan | 2002 |
| Morocco | Lesotho | 2000 |
| Mozambique | Mauritius | 2000 |

| *Membership in 1999* | *Membership in 2000* | *Term expires on 31 December* |
|---|---|---|
| New Zealand | Mexico | 2002 |
| Norway | Morocco | 2001 |
| Oman | New Zealand | 2000 |
| Pakistan | Norway | 2001 |
| Poland | Oman | 2000 |
| Republic of Korea | Pakistan | 2000 |
| Russian Federation | Poland | 2000 |
| Rwanda | Portugal | 2002 |
| Saint Lucia | Russian Federation | 2001 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rwanda | 2001 |
| Sierra Leone | Saint Lucia | 2000 |
| Spain | Saudi Arabia | 2001 |
| Sri Lanka | Sierra Leone | 2000 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | Sudan | 2002 |
| Turkey | Suriname | 2002 |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Syrian Arab Republic | 2001 |
| United States of America | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 2001 |
| Venezuela | United States of America | 2000 |
| Viet Nam | Venezuela | 2001 |
| Zambia | Viet Nam | 2000 |

**Functional commissions and subcommissions**

## Statistical Commission

**(24 members; four-year term)**

| *Membership in 1999* | *Membership in 2000* | *Term expires on 31 December* |
|---|---|---|
| Argentina | Argentina | 2001 |
| Australia | Australia | 2001 |
| Botswana | Botswana | 2001 |
| Bulgaria | China | 2003 |
| China | Côte d'Ivoire | 2001 |
| Colombia | Czech Republic | 2000 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | Germany | 2001 |
| Czech Republic | Hungary | 2003 |
| Germany | Iceland | 2001 |
| Iceland | India | 2000 |
| India | Jamaica | 2000 |
| Jamaica | Japan | 2000 |
| Japan | Mexico | 2000 |
| Mexico | Morocco | 2003 |
| Netherlands | Netherlands | 2000 |
| Pakistan | Pakistan | 2003 |
| Portugal | Peru | 2003 |
| Romania | Portugal | 2000 |
| Russian Federation | Romania | 2003 |
| Sudan | Russian Federation | 2001 |
| Togo | Tunisia | 2001 |
| Tunisia | Uganda | 2003 |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 2000 |
| United States of America | United States of America | 2003 |

## Commission on Population and Development

**(47 members; four-year term)**

| *Membership in 1999* | *Membership in 2000* | *Term expires on 31 December* |
|---|---|---|
| Bangladesh | Algeria | 2003 |
| Belgium | Bangladesh | 2000 |
| Brazil | Belarus | 2003 |
| Bulgaria | Belgium | 2000 |
| Burundi | Brazil | 2003 |
| Cameroon | Burundi | 2002 |
| Canada | Cameroon | 2000 |
| Chile | Canada | 2000 |
| China | Chile | 2002 |
| Costa Rica | China | 2001 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | Costa Rica | 2000 |
| Croatia | Côte d'Ivoire | 2000 |
| Egypt | Croatia | 2002 |
| El Salvador | El Salvador | 2001 |
| Ethiopia | Ethiopia | 2000 |
| France | France | 2003 |
| Germany | Germany | 2000 |
| Guinea | Guinea | 2002 |
| Haiti | Haiti | 2002 |
| Hungary | Hungary | 2000 |
| India | India | 2001 |
| Indonesia | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 2002 |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Italy | 2002 |
| Italy | Jamaica | 2001 |
| Jamaica | Japan | 2003 |
| Japan | Kenya | 2003 |
| Kenya | Malawi | 2001 |
| Malawi | Malaysia | 2000 |
| Malaysia | Mexico | 2001 |
| Mexico | Netherlands | 2003 |
| Netherlands | Niger | 2001 |
| Niger | Nigeria | 2001 |
| Nigeria | Pakistan | 2003 |
| Panama | Panama | 2000 |
| Paraguay | Paraguay | 2000 |
| Philippines | Philippines | 2001 |
| Republic of Korea | Republic of Korea | 2001 |
| Russian Federation | Russian Federation | 2001 |
| South Africa | South Africa | 2001 |

| *Membership in 1999* | *Membership in 2000* | *Term expires on 31 December* |
|---|---|---|
| Sudan | Sweden | 2001 |
| Sweden | Thailand | 2000 |
| Thailand | Turkey | 2000 |
| Turkey | Uganda | 2003 |
| Ukraine | Ukraine | 2001 |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 2001 |
| United States of America | United States of America | 2001 |
| Yemen | Yemen | 2002 |

## Commission for Social Development

**(46 members; four-year term)**

| *Membership in 1999* | *Membership in 2000* | *Term expires on 31 December* |
|---|---|---|
| Algeria | Algeria | 2002 |
| Argentina | Argentina | 2002 |
| Belarus | Belarus | 2003 |
| Cameroon | Benin | 2003 |
| Canada | Cameroon | 2000 |
| Chile | Canada | 2000 |
| China | Chile | 2000 |
| Croatia | China | 2000 |
| Cuba | Croatia | 2002 |
| Democratic People's Republic of Korea | Cuba | 2000 |
| Dominican Republic | Democratic People's Republic of Korea | 2002 |
| Ecuador | Dominican Republic | 2002 |
| Finland | Ecuador | 2003 |
| France | Finland | 2000 |
| Gabon | France | 2003 |
| Gambia | Germany | 2003 |
| Germany | Ghana | 2003 |
| Guinea | Guatemala | 2003 |
| Haiti | Guinea | 2002 |
| India | Haiti | 2002 |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | India | 2000 |
| Jamaica | Indonesia | 2003 |
| Japan | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 2002 |
| Malawi | Jamaica | 2000 |
| Malta | Japan | 2003 |
| Mauritania | Malawi | 2000 |
| Morocco | Malta | 2000 |
| Nepal | Morocco | 2002 |
| Netherlands | Netherlands | 2000 |
| Pakistan | Nigeria | 2003 |
| Peru | Pakistan | 2000 |
| Philippines | Peru | 2003 |
| Poland | Philippines | 2000 |
| Republic of Korea | Poland | 2000 |
| Romania | Republic of Korea | 2003 |
| Russian Federation | Romania | 2000 |
| South Africa | Russian Federation | 2003 |
| Spain | South Africa | 2000 |
| Sudan | Spain | 2002 |

| *Membership in 1999* | *Membership in 2000* | *Term expires on 31 December* |
|---|---|---|
| Sweden | Sudan | 2003 |
| Swaziland | Sweden | 2002 |
| Thailand | Swaziland | 2002 |
| Turkey | Thailand | 2002 |
| Uganda | Turkey | 2002 |
| United States of America | Uganda | 2000 |
| Venezuela | United States of America | 2003 |

## Commission on Human Rights

**(53 members; three-year term)**

| *Membership in 1999* | *Membership in 2000* | *Term expires on 31 December* |
|---|---|---|
| Argentina | Argentina | 2002 |
| Austria | Bangladesh | 2000 |
| Bangladesh | Bhutan | 2000 |
| Bhutan | Botswana | 2000 |
| Botswana | Brazil | 2002 |
| Canada | Burundi | 2002 |
| Cape Verde | Canada | 2000 |
| Chile | Chile | 2000 |
| China | China | 2002 |
| Colombia | Colombia | 2001 |
| Congo | Congo | 2000 |
| Cuba | Cuba | 2000 |
| Czech Republic | Czech Republic | 2002 |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | Ecuador | 2002 |
| Ecuador | El Salvador | 2000 |
| El Salvador | France | 2001 |
| France | Germany | 2002 |
| Germany | Guatemala | 2000 |
| Guatemala | India | 2000 |
| India | Indonesia | 2002 |
| Indonesia | Italy | 2002 |
| Ireland | Japan | 2002 |
| Italy | Latvia | 2001 |
| Japan | Liberia | 2001 |
| Latvia | Luxembourg | 2000 |
| Liberia | Madagascar | 2001 |
| Luxembourg | Mauritius | 2001 |
| Madagascar | Mexico | 2001 |
| Mauritius | Morocco | 2000 |
| Mexico | Nepal | 2000 |
| Morocco | Niger | 2001 |
| Mozambique | Nigeria | 2002 |
| Nepal | Norway | 2001 |
| Niger | Pakistan | 2001 |
| Norway | Peru | 2000 |
| Pakistan | Philippines | 2000 |
| Peru | Poland | 2000 |
| Philippines | Portugal | 2002 |
| Poland | Qatar | 2001 |

| *Membership in 1999* | *Membership in 2000* | *Term expires on 31 December* |
|---|---|---|
| Qatar | Republic of Korea | 2001 |
| Republic of Korea | Romania | 2001 |
| Romania | Russian Federation | 2000 |
| Russian Federation | Rwanda | 2000 |
| Rwanda | Senegal | 2000 |
| Senegal | Spain | 2002 |
| South Africa | Sri Lanka | 2000 |
| Sri Lanka | Sudan | 2000 |
| Sudan | Swaziland | 2002 |
| Tunisia | Tunisia | 2000 |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 2000 |
| United States of America | United States of America | 2001 |
| Uruguay | Venezuela | 2000 |
| Venezuela | Zambia | 2002 |

## Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights[a]

**(26 members)**

**Members elected on 22 April 1996, for a four-year term, by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session**

Marc Bossuyt (Belgium)

*Alternate*: Guy Genot (Belgium)

Volodymyr Boutkevitch (Ukraine)

*Alternate*: Olexandre Kouptchichine (Ukraine)

Asbjorn Eide (Norway)

*Alternate*: Jan Helgesen (Norway)

Ribot Hatano (Japan)

*Alternate*: Yozo Yokota (Japan)

Ahmed M. Khalifa (Egypt)

*Alternate*: Ahmed Khalil (Egypt)

Miguel J. Alfonso Martínez (Cuba)

*Alternate*: Marianela Ferriol Echevarría (Cuba)

Ioan Maxim (Romania)

*Alternate*: Petru Pavel Gavrilescu (Romania)

Mustapha Mehedi (Algeria)

Sang Yong Park (Republic of Korea)

Clemencia Forero Ucros (Colombia)

*Alternate*: Jorge Orlando Melo (Colombia)

Halima Embarek Warzazi (Morocco)

*Alternate*: Mohamad Benkaddour (Morocco)

David Weissbrodt (United States of America)

*Alternate*: Robert J. Portman (United States of America)

Fisseha Yimer (Ethiopia)

**Members elected on 6 April 1998, for a four-year term, by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fourth session**

José Bengoa (Chile)

Erica-Irene A. Daes (Greece)

*Alternate*: Kalliopi Koufa (Greece)

Fan Guoxiang (China)

*Alternate*: Zhong Shukong (China)

Héctor Fix-Zamudio (Mexico)

*Alternate*: Alfonso Gómez-Robledo Veduzco (Mexico)

Rajenda Kalidas Wimala Goonesekere (Sri Lanka)

*Alternate*: Deepika Udagama (Sri Lanka)

El-Hadji Guissé (Senegal)

Françoise Jane Hampson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

*Alternate*: Helena Cook (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Louis Joinet (France)

*Alternate*: Emmanuel Decaux (France)

Joseph Oloka-Onyango (Uganda)

Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro (Brazil)

*Alternate*: Marília S. Zelner Gonçalves (Brazil)

Teimuraz O. Ramishvili (Russian Federation)

*Alternate*: Vladimir Kartashkin (Russian Federation)

Yeung Kam Yeung Sik Yuen (Mauritius)

Soli Jehangir Sorabjee (India)

## Commission on the Status of Women

**(45 members; four-year term)**

| *Membership in 1999* | *Membership in 2000* | *Term expires on 31 December* |
|---|---|---|
| Belgium | Belgium | 2002 |
| Bolivia | Benin | 2003 |
| Brazil | Bolivia | 2001 |
| Burundi | Brazil | 2003 |
| Chile | Burundi | 2002 |
| China | Chile | 2003 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | China | 2003 |
| Cuba | Côte d'Ivoire | 2001 |
| Democratic People's Republic of Korea | Croatia | 2003 |
| Dominican Republic | Cuba | 2001 |
| Egypt | Democratic People's Republic of Korea | 2002 |
| Ethiopia | Denmark | 2003 |
| France | Dominican Republic | 2003 |
| Germany | Egypt | 2002 |
| Ghana | Ethiopia | 2000 |
| India | France | 2000 |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Germany | 2000 |
| Italy | Ghana | 2000 |
| Japan | India | 2001 |
| Lebanon | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 2001 |
| Lesotho | Italy | 2002 |
| Lithuania | Japan | 2000 |
| Malaysia | Kyrgyzstan | 2003 |
| Mali | Lesotho | 2001 |
| Mexico | Lithuania | 2002 |
| Mongolia | Malawi | 2003 |
| Morocco | Malaysia | 2001 |
| Norway | Mexico | 2002 |
| Paraguay | Mongolia | 2002 |
| Peru | Morocco | 2000 |
| Poland | Paraguay | 2000 |
| Republic of Korea | Peru | 2000 |
| Russian Federation | Poland | 2000 |
| Rwanda | Republic of Korea | 2001 |
| Saint Lucia | Russian Federation | 2002 |
| Senegal | Rwanda | 2001 |
| Slovakia | Saint Lucia | 2001 |
| Sri Lanka | Senegal | 2002 |
| Sudan | Sri Lanka | 2001 |

| *Membership in 1999* | *Membership in 2000* | *Term expires on 31 December* |
|---|---|---|
| Swaziland | Sudan | 2001 |
| Thailand | Thailand | 2000 |
| Turkey | Turkey | 2002 |
| Uganda | Uganda | 2001 |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 2000 |
| United States of America | United States of America | 2003 |